Friday, November 2, 2012 ★★ 7 sections / Vol. 37 / No. 327 P18 | Mobile Alerts: Text INQ DREAMING to 4467 | www.inquirer.net Twitter: @inquirerdotnet

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

PAYING RESPECTS TO THE DEAD Filipinos flock to cemeteries to pay their respects to departed relatives on Thursday, All Saints' Day. Photo above was taken at Manila South Cemetery in Makati City.

NYC crawls back to life

Mass transit system starts limited services

BIPARTISAN COOPERATION US President Barack Obama hugs North Point Marina owner Donna Vassiliki as he surveys the storm damage in Brigantine, New Jersey, with Republican Gov. Chris Christie on Wednesday. REUTERS

NEW YORK—People along the battered US East Coast slowly began reclaiming their daily routines on Thursday, while crews searched for victims and tens of thousands remained without power after Superstorm "Sandy" claimed more than 70 lives.

The New York Stock Exchange came back to life, and two major New York airports reopened to begin the long process of moving stranded travelers around the world.

New York's three major airports were expected to be open on Thursday morning, with limited flights. Limited service on the subway, which suffered the worst damage in its 108-year history, would resume on Thursday.

New Yorkers hoped for an ira

NEW YORK, A15

People use social media to seek aid, offer help / A8

• Desperate New Yorkers scramble for power / A16

Millions visit cemeteries to pay respects to their dead

MILLIONS across the Philippines thronged cemeteries yesterday to pay their respects to their dead in an annual tradition that combined Catholic religious rites with the country's penchant for festivity.

At Manila's Loyola Memorial Park, families camped overnight, pitched tents and brought in food for a daylong All Saints' Day picnic by the graves and tombs of their dead, just like in other cemeteries.

One of the major problems at Loyola was the huge number of vehicles inside, one of the few cemeteries in the capital where cars are allowed.

"About 60 percent of the requests sent to us here at the parking booth were about parking problems," said Jonathan Sevilla.

"The other 35 percent were about

MILLIONS, A4

How to help departed loved ones go to heaven / A8

Occult, pagan practices ruin faith in God, says exorcist

By Cathy C. Yamson

A CELEBRITY boards pink quartz jewelry, believing these will bring her the real love of her life.

A businessman who wants more profit puts a giant Shiva statue side by side with a waving goldfish cat in prominent part of his store, while the head of one family consults a fortune-

OCCULT, A6

New Jersey bore brunt of superstorm

HOBOKEN, New Jersey—New Jersey was reeling on Wednesday from the impact of Superstorm "Sandy," which has caused catastrophic flooding here in Hoboken and in other New York City suburbs, destroyed entire neighborhoods across the state and wiped out iconic boardwalks in shore towns that had enchanted generations of vacationgoers.

Though the storm raged up the East Coast, it has become increasingly apparent that New Jersey took the brunt of it. Officials estimated that the state suffered many billions of dollars in property damage. About a quarter of the state's population—more than 2 million people—remained without power on Wednesday, and more than 6,000 were still in shelters, state emergency officials said.

NEW JERSEY, A14

SHARING WARMTH East Village residents enjoy a bonfire in New York City on Wednesday after Superstorm "Sandy" claimed several dozen lives on the East Coast. AP

Land developers near cemeteries making a killing

By Tessa R. Salazar

IF A PROPERTY are close to a cemetery, would its value go down six feet under?

The business asked this question to real estate experts and their surprising answer: On the contrary, properties near cemeteries are making a killing.

LAND, B4

AGRARIAN REFORM

5-year extension of CARP sought

By Leila B. Salaverria

TWO LAWMAKERS are seeking a five-year extension of the agrarian reform law expiring in June 2014, saying the Aquino administration is far from meeting its objectives of completing land acquisition and distribution.

The House bill that would extend to 2019 as well as strengthen the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP), filed last month by Representatives Rufus Rodriguez of Cagayan de Oro and his brother Maximo of Albay's Mindanao, has been referred to the committee on agrarian reform.

In their explanatory note to House Bill No. 6614, the lawmakers said the program had yet to fully meet its objectives 25 years after it was implemented by President Aquino's mother, democracy icon Corazon Aquino.

For example, the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) is far from fulfilling its 2012 target of processing 180,000 hectares of

SPRAY, A4

WHAT'S INSIDE

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Lea Salonga 'very excited' to see next Kim / F1

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

2D 2T
3 2 11
16 15
17 23

SUERTRES
7 3 7
4 2 7
5 6 2

SIX DIGIT
9 9 0 8 1 6

6/42 LUZ-VIS-MIN
14 18 19 36 37 39
P8,742,175.20

SUPER LOTTO 6/49
2 4 30 36 46 48
P16,000,000.00

Palace: No pressure on PNP chief

P-Noy not forcing Bartolome to retire early, says Valte

By TJ Burgonio and Marlon Ramos

PRESIDENT Aquino is not pressuring Philippine National Police (PNP) Director General Nicanor Bartolome to retire ahead of his mandatory retirement in March next year, Malacañang said yesterday.

The President has not said anything about talking Bartolome into retiring early, said deputy presidential spokesperson Abigail Valte.

"And obviously, even from the deference and the statements of DG Bartolome, there's no pressure on him," Valte told state-run dzRB radio.

Valte said Interior Secretary Mar Roxas' designation of PNP Deputy Director General Allan Purisima as head of Task Force Habitat, which will oversee security in next year's midterm elections, should not be seen as an insult to Bartolome.

Purisima, who was promoted last Wednesday to police deputy director general, the equivalent of a three-star general rank in the military, is widely rumored to be the designated successor of Bartolome, who is retiring on March 16 when he turns 56, the mandatory retirement age for police officials. The date falls right in the middle of the election campaign period.

Premature

Valte said it was premature to say if Purisima's designation as head of TF Habitat was a signal that he would become the next PNP chief. Besides, the post has not been vacated, she said.

Secretary Edwin Lacierda earlier said that the President had granted Bartolome's request that he be allowed to retire in his official retirement date so he can enjoy full retirement benefits.

The President earlier indicated that he wanted Bartolome to replace Interior Undersecretary Rico Puno, who resigned following the death in August of the late Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo, ostensibly to allow Robredo's successor, Mar Roxas, to choose his own team.

Some senior PNP officials have surmised that Mr. Aquino's insistence on a change in the PNP leadership ahead of Bartolome's retirement could mean "disenchantment" in the 148,000-strong police organization.

A number of high-ranking PNP officials have expressed concern over the President's decision to force Bartolome to step down before his scheduled retirement, according to three PNP officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

'It ain't broke'

Mr. Aquino, being the commander in chief of the military and the police, should "continue or inspire us by injecting the proper paths of every police official," one source said.

"There's no question about how President Aquino has steered the PNP in a better direction with his 'I need no short' policy. And I think it's also clear to him that the PNP has been able to create that path because of Bartolome's leadership," the source said.

He noted that unlike previous PNP leaders, Bartolome and his immediate subordinates were not implicated in police corruption issues, such as recruiting payola from "jueteng," or the illegal numbers game.

"So they say, why fix something unless it ain't broke? Why rock the boat when we are sailing smoothly?" the police official said.

"This may cost him[Bartolome] more amusing no," he said.

PNP officials cannot understand why Mr. Aquino's hands were for seeing that banning a new PNP chief earlier would allow Bartolome's successor to prepare before the May 2013 elections, another source said.

BARTOLOME (right) with Purisima during the turnover of command at NCRPO. NONOY LAGMAY

'Good leader'

"A good leader, like a police general, will do good even if you just been in the middle of a battle. But a bad leader wouldn't perform just as bad even if you give him all the time in the world to prepare," the source said.

"That's why we don't really understand the rationale of the President," he said.

A third source said some police officials close to Mr. Aquino may be trying to convince him to immediately appoint Purisima, who is said to be a close friend of the President.

The source said "it's an open secret" that Roxas was disappointed by the significant rise in criminality in the metropolis when Purisima was still the head of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO).

'Lackluster' at NCRPO

"(Purisima's) lackluster performance as NCRPO chief became more evident when his successor was able to outdo what he did during his first few weeks in office," the source said, referring to current NCRPO chief Director Leonardo Espina.

Espina, Purisima's friend in PMA Class '79, is believed to be Purisima's closest rival for the coveted PNP top post.

"If the President's reason was really to give the next PNP chief more time to prepare for the elections, then he already did that when he appointed Purisima as head of the [Task Force Habitat]," the source said.

Meanwhile, Purisima said he has ordered a review of active private armed groups that are used by some unscrupulous politicians to ensure their election victory.

Purisima, chief of the PNP directorial staff, said the PNP would come up with an updated list of private armies next week.

Army insists antimining activist a bandit leader

By Nikko Dizon

RED Is he a bandit or a killed leader?

The Philippine Army continues to insist a suspected mining activist is a bandit leader wanted for a string of crimes, even as it will put on trial 13 soldiers in connection with the deaths of Digdi Capion's wife and two children two weeks ago in Davao del Sur.

Lt. Col. Lyndon Pentes, spokesperson of the 10th Infantry Division in Davao City, said antimining groups had been insistently "connecting" Capion to their movements and had "capitalized" on the deaths of his wife and children.

"That's the problem, because police records show that Capion has long been wanted for a string of crimes," Pentes told the Inquirer in a phone interview.

The division spokesperson said Capion was wanted for the murder of three people and even a double murder as well.

Antimining groups, on the other hand, have described Capion as a B'laan tribe leader opposed to large-scale mining.

Asked if the soldiers' court martial was aimed at appeasing those blaming the military for the deaths of Capion's family, Pentes said, "No."

"The Army investigated the incident because we were criticized. We cannot turn a blind eye to it. Our soldiers have to answer why this happened. We would determine [what] took place," Pentes said.

He said Capion's wife and children also deserved to get justice and should not be considered merely "collateral damage" in the encounter. "They should not suffer for the mistakes of [Capion]," Pentes said.

Legitimate encounter

He said military and police investigators had established that there was a legitimate encounter between Capion and the 73 soldiers on Oct. 16 in Kiblawan town, Davao del Sur.

The shooting happened in front of Capion's house, but he managed to escape. His pregnant wife, Arry, and their children, Boy, 13, and John, 8, who were inside, were killed. Another child, 7-year-old Vicky, was wounded.

The Army, meanwhile, has asked the public not to draw any conclusions just yet.

Sotto: Let's learn China lessons

By Cathy Yamsuan

SENATE Majority Leader Vicente Sotto said suggestions in Bill China's one-child policy because of its adverse effects to Chinese society should serve as a warning to proponents of the reproductive health (RH) bill.

"Precisely what we have been saying all along. Over a billion Chinese and yet, the study can prove that their aging population will ruin their economy and further progress," Sotto said in a text message.

Sotto's warning stems from the China-based Research Foundation's recent recommendation to "loosen" the one-child policy and allow families at least two children by 2013.

This is because China's younger generations of mostly males would have difficulty supporting its aging population. The gender imbalance is also seen as a future issue.

The Xinhua news agency was quoted saying the think tank further suggested that all population restrictions lifted by 2030.

China's population hit one billion in October 2011. One authority quoted by the Cable News Network said China's population could have grown to its number one under earlier had it not been for the one-child policy introduced 30 years ago.

But while the policy helped curb China's population, numerous reports over time said it has also led mothers to abort female fetuses since the culture favored sons over daughters.

Several abortions, some in the bellies of local officials, are still being reported in China today.

Sotto, one of the framers of RH Bill 4244, also came in the forum, said China's experiences should serve as an eye-opener to those behind the contentious measure.

"Our country has less than 100 million and some of us want to bother with it. God has a process of life and death. We should not interfere with His process," he also said in the text message.

Sotto has consistently pointed out that international organizations with ties to population control interests are behind efforts to approve the RH bill in the Philippines.

Militant labor groups demand living, not 'libing' wage

By Tina G. Santos

"LIBING," not living, wage.

This was how militant and left-leaning labor groups described the recent P125 increase in the cost-of-living allowance (COLA) for minimum wage earners in Metro Manila, which took effect yesterday.

"No wonder the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) implemented the hike in time for the Todas (Day of the Dead)," thumbing-up their Bayan Chairperson said in exhilaration.

Colmenares said the hike is far from the P1,25 demanded by the workers and the P600 family living wage set by Ibon Foundation in 2011, the amount required to meet daily needs.

"The present workers' pay is not a living wage, it's a 'libing' (funeral) wage. You can feel the spirit of the dead, but not the wage hike," he said in Pilipino, adding that most employers do not implement the minimum wage levels.

'Perfect timing'

"The timing of the implementation of the PD Cola for National Capital Region workers is perfect. Through hunger-wage labor and Cola, the government has been putting a premium on workers' hopes for a living wage," added Kilusang Mayo Uno-Sentro Diliet "Dong" Cubeo.

The P20 hike comprises the second tranche of the Cola granted by the Regional Tripartite Wage and Productivity Board-National Capital Region (RTWPB-NCR) last May to daily minimum wage workers in Metro Manila.

"We raise the daily minimum wage in the NCRPO's metropolitan area sector to P426 basic pay plus P30 Cola, or a total of P456. For other industry sectors, the daily minimum wage will be P466 basic pay plus P30 Cola, or a P49 daily minimum wage rate," said Labor Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz.

It can be recalled that the RTWPB-NCR conducted a minimum wage hike of P30 in Cola through the issuance of Wage Order No. NCR-17 on May 22, 2012.

The first of the two tranches took effect last June, thereby granting an additional P30 Cola allowance for Metro Manila workers.

According to the DOLE, around 700,000 minimum wage earners in the metropolis benefit from the Cola hike.

All-encompassing

The wage increase covers all minimum wage earners in the private sector in the NCR, regardless of their position, designation or status of employment and irrespective of the method by which they are paid.

On the other hand, domestic helpers, persons employed in the personal service of another, including family drivers, and workers of duly-registered Barangay Micro Business Enterprises are exempted from the wage order.

Aside from the RTWPB-NCR, 16 other RTWPBs have issued wage increases this year, namely the STWPBs of CAR, Regions 1, 2, 3, 4-A, 5, 6, 8, 9, 12 and ARMM.

Baldoz noted that the new wage orders already contain the features of the two-tiered wage system, one of the major reforms the DOLE is pushing.

"Within the period of three to five years, all wage boards must have already implemented the rationalized wage system," she said.

Baldoz encouraged corporate to develop and implement productivity improvement programs in addition to their voluntary compliance with the minimum wage laws, saying this is the second rate component of the two-tier wage system, a voluntary productivity-based pay for adjustments above the floor wage.

US thanks PH for 'Sandy' aid

By Tarra Quismundo

THE UNITED States yesterday expressed its gratitude to the Philippine government for readily extending help to victims of Hurricane "Sandy."

US Ambassador to the Philippines Harry Thomas Jr. yesterday posted his thanks on his Twitter account shortly after Malacañang announced its aid to the US in the aftermath of the superstorm.

"Thank you government of the Philippines who will donate $250K to the American Red Cross to help victims of Hurricane Sandy. Your partners in friends," said Thomas.

The US has been a constant ally and ally in the country in times of natural disasters.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, Nov. 2, 2012
All Souls' Day

1 st Reading Wis 3:1-9

The souls of the just are in the hands of God and no torment shall touch them.

In the eyes of the senseless they appeared to be dead. Their glory to look at a disaster, a certain close they have everything by departing from us, but they are in peace.

Though seemingly they have been punished, immortality was the seal of their hope. After slight affliction will come great blessings, for God has tried them and found them worthy to be with Him, since testing them as gold in the furnace, he has accepted them as a holocaust.

At the time of his coming they will shine like sparks that run to the stubble. They will govern nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord will be their king forever.

Those who trust in him will understand the truth, those who are faithful will live with him in love, for his grace and mercy are for his chosen ones.

2nd Reading Rom 6:3-9

Don't you know that in baptism which unites us to Christ we are all baptized and plunged into his death. By this baptism we, in his death, we were buried with Christ and, as Christ was raised from among the dead by the Glory of the Father, so we live a new and living in a new life. It was an image of his death when we were grafted to him, and so we will also share in his resurrection.

We know that our old self was crucified with Christ, so as to destroy what of us was sin, so that we were no longer slaves to sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe we will also live with him. We know that Christ, once raised from the dead, will not die again and death has no more dominion over him.

Gospel Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus said to his disciples, "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all his angels, he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be brought before him, and as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, so will he do with them, placing the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

"The King will say to those on his right, 'Come, blessed of my Father! Take possession of the kingdom prepared for you from the beginning of the world. For I was hungry and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to see me.'

"Then the good people will ask him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and give you food, thirsty and give you drink, or a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to see you?' The King will answer, 'Truly I say to you, whenever you did this for one of these little ones who are my brothers and sisters, you did it to me.'

"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Go, cursed people, out of my sight into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and for his angels! For I was hungry and you did not give me anything to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me into your house, I was naked and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not visit me.'

"Then, too, will ask 'Lord, when did we see you hungry, thirsty, naked or a stranger, sick or in prison, and did not help you?' The King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, whenever you did not do for one of these little ones, you did not do for me.'

"And these will go into eternal punishment, but the just to eternal life."

3rd Invitation

Jesus chose us how he will judge everyone, making no distinctions based on sex, give what he comes as a king of all nations. All those who, without knowing Christ, have shared in the common destiny of his neighbor, will be judged by him. In fact, he never abandoned the, but placed at their side. "Those little ones who are his brothers and sisters" as his representatives.

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SCAVENGER-TURNED-ACHIEVER

Pinoy kid a global inspiration

DAVID (CT) – Cris Valdez began life scrounging in the streets and was soon rummaging in a rubbish dump, an unlikely start for a boy now hailed as an inspiration for children around the world.

Valdez, 13, was the area's International Children's Peace Prize for his work as Leader of a charity organization that educates and hands out gifts to thousands of youngsters in his poverty-stricken hometown.

South African human rights activist and Nobel Peace Prize winner Desmond Tutu gave Valdez his award at a ceremony in the Netherlands in September, declaring him a "source for the sunshine" and a "true inspiration."

After returning to the streets of Davao, Valdez spoke in a soft voice to Agence France-Presse about his noble philosophies that emerged from personal devastation and the people who healed his life anyway.

Saving himself

"I help because I see myself in children who roam and live on the streets," Valdez said during one of the weekend community outreach programs.

"Some good-hearted people showed me love and changed my life, and I am just paying it forward."

Valdez, an Ilonggo "Bisaya," was born the third of nine children from a desperately poor couple who lived with hundreds of other squatter families on the fringes of a huge garbage dump in Davao City.

The city was once a picturesque, tolerant Spanish enclave and fish port, but deforestation and a mostly murderous urban exposure to frontier problems across the country where a quarter of the population now lives on less than a dollar a day.

The parents called him "bad luck" because they tried to sell him when he was a baby but failed, according to Francis Managbanyay, the head of a local Christian youth charity who eventually rescued Valdez.

Managbanyay said Valdez was forced to start scrounging in the garbage dump from the age of two.

At age three and four, Valdez was sleeping anywhere he could, inducing stop-nosers at the city cemetery because he frequently fled home to escape beatings by his stepbrother-driver father, according to Managbanyay.

At one stage when children are just learning how to make friends, Valdez was learning to beg and steal.

"I found him sleeping on a roadside accident in Davao. He was very dirty and being kicked by passers-by," Managbanyay said.

Managbanyay enrolled Valdez, then aged four, in his alternative learning program for street children, in which volunteer teachers use mobile classrooms on pushcarts to bring lessons to the children.

In between lessons, Valdez still scavenged for scraps to help out his family.

Bad luck kid

Even bad luck struck Valdez again when he was five.

Fellow scavengers jostling around a dump truck accidentally plowed him into a pile of burning tyres, badly injuring his arms and back.

"My father was angry when I came home and said I deserved it for being stupid," Valdez recalled.

Valdez said his mother took him to Managbanyay, who paid for his medical treatment and allowed him to volunteer at the charity worker's shelter for street children, called Dale (Give).

"The crisis back (another time) led to tell me they did not want him back anymore," Managbanyay said.

Managbanyay, a youth counselor, engineer, rescue club hero before helping troubled youths for more than 25 years, became his legal guardian.

Under his tutelage, Valdez recovered, and his grades improved.

He also began volunteering as a 6-year-old to teach other street children about basic hygiene.

When Valdez turned seven, Managbanyay asked him what he wanted as a birthday gift.

"I told him I wanted other children to receive what I had: soldier slippers, toys and candies," Valdez said.

So Valdez and his guardian spent the day giving various items to street children.

Tradition of giving

The giving became a yearly tradition and led to the creation of Valdez's own charity, called Children's Emergency Assistance.

Under Managbanyay's guidance, Valdez built the charity into one that raises funds from private donors to buy basic living items for children, including sandals, toys, food and clothes.

Volunteers made up mostly of Valdez's friends, also teach basic hygiene, nutrition and gardening, as well as educate children on their rights to help prevent abuse.

Valdez's charity has helped 10,000 children in Davao over the past six years, according to Jhei Judging committee of the International Children's Peace Prize, which was founded by Dutch organization KidsRights.

"Cris is like any other second kid. But his achievements and the number of people he has helped, surpass those of most adults," Managbanyay said.

Valdez's plans for the immediate future are to continue with his charity, while studying want his school work does not suffer from his busy schedule.

Eventually, he wants to work in one of the toughest jobs of all, while expanding his charity work.

"I'm studying hard because I want to be a doctor ... I want to help more children, not only in the Philippines, but also in other countries," he said. AFP

VALDEZ

Acosta, ma face perjury charges

By Cyrstia D. Balova

ACOSTA

THE OMBUDSMAN has charged former Bukidnon Rep. Nereus Acosta and his mother early on perjury in the Sandiganbayan after finding probable cause for their indictment in connection with the alleged irregular use of Acosta's pork barrel when he was a member of the House of Representatives six years ago.

A four-page information signed by Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales and filed on Sept. 4, 2006, Acosta illegally channeled P5.5 million from his Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF) to the Bukidnon Negotiable Producers Cooperative (BNPC), a private organization controlled by his family, and made it appear that the fund was approved by the Sangguniang Bayan of Manolo Fortich, a first-class municipality in Bukidnon founded by his mother, Socorro Acosta, as mayor.

Feloniously executed

The Ombudsman said Superintendent Acosta "deliberately, unlawfully, feloniously and criminally executed his constituent Edwin Antonio before a notary public, issuing and swearing that such channeling was concurred in by the Sangguniang Bayan of Manolo Fortich, which was false, as the accused fully well knew that no such concurrence was given..."

The Ombudsman recommended bail of P61,500 for his temporary liberty.

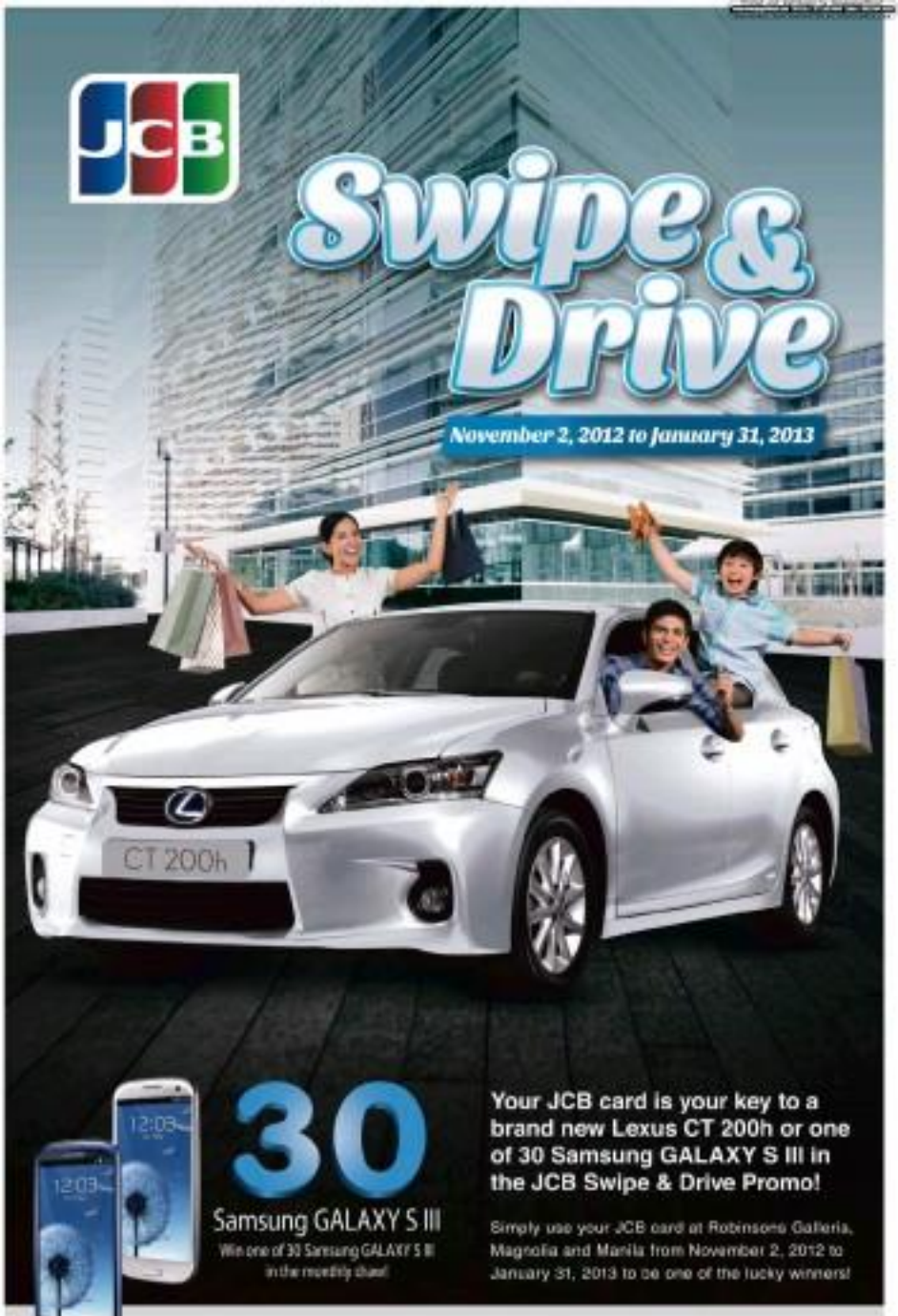
His mother was also charged early yesterday, March 30, 1103 of the Revised Penal Code for perjury for executing a counter-affidavit affirming that the handling of her son's PDAF to the BNPC was consistent to law, the Sangguniang Bayan, or town council, of Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon's First Legislative District, and in pursuance of the government's fast batch of witnesses in the plunder case against former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and nine other former officials of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and Commission on Audit in connection with the alleged misuse of P366 million in PCSO confidential and intelligence funds.

Called to testify for the state at 8 a.m. on Nov. 7 and 8 were Bayan Mayor Rep. Teddy Casiño and Dr. Mrs. Carolina Sondia, former National Economic and Development Authority Director Ronaldo Sora and whistleblower Rodolfo "Jun" Lozada.

JCB

Swipe & Drive

November 2, 2012 to January 31, 2013



30

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People use social media to seek aid, offer help

WASHINGTON—In the US East Coast slowly cleaned up from the monstrous "Sandy," those hoping to help the millions of survivors found it hard not to investing, praising and crowdsourcing on Wednesday to mobilize much-needed aid.

The storm has devastated New York City and neighboring New Jersey, killed dozens of people in several states, destroyed homes or left countless and left millions in the dark and some urban pockets transportation paralyzed.

On Facebook, users adopted the hashtags #sandyaid and #sandyvolunteers to ask for relief or find out how they could help, and crowdsourced maps sprung up online showing functioning Wi-Fi spots or places where supplies were available.

"In case Millionaire[sic] here can't help!" @thecrabshack—new traveled, getting a prompt reply from Brooklyn-based lifestyle guide @BrooklynHipster, which posted a link to nearby volunteer transportation.

Andrea Lawrence, managing director of NYTech Meetup—a nonprofit organization that supports the technology community in New York—said she had reached out to her 28,000-plus members through Twitter and Facebook.

Already 160 tech savvy people were on standby to help emergency schools, businesses and other services to get back on their feet, to provide assistance with medical issues such as data recovery.

But it hard hit Lower Manhattan, many of those in need were still lacking power, and Lawrence said the challenge was how to connect with them, though some were now making their way to places with electricity and Internet access.

Particularly useful

She added that social networks had been particularly useful to connect with other relief organizations and make sure they avoided duplicate efforts. Users also put their efforts on Twitter.

"I don't think it would have been nearly so easy without social media," she said.

Other organizations used social networks to gather practical information for recent victims and pick them on internet-free online maps.

The Watershed Hut, for instance—an online news source for families in communities near north of New York City—launched a crowdsourced map locating closed or impacted roads, places to get help or items in need of aid.

Another crowdsourced map focusing on the New York City area—http://maps.forsandy.org/—showed locations of gas stations, pharmacies, all places where free Wi-Fi was available and working.

One widely retweeted initiative allowed Web users to go to a site called recovers.org and click on a specific stricken location—they can either request assistance or write a list of items they are willing to give away.

'Very successful'

A volunteer running the online site in the Red Hook neighborhood of Brooklyn told Agence France-Presse (AFP) the initiative was "very successful" and that she had been able to connect people with those who could help them.

In New Jersey meanwhile, 2SHN—a news outlet set up after Hurricane "Irene" struck in 2011—used its Facebook page as a platform to enable people to help their neighbors.

"Where can we find gas, food, ice, generators, etc???" read one post on the page that had garnered 215 comments so far from Web users listing specific addresses and shops where those items were available. AFP

Millions visit cemeteries to pay respects to their dead

From page A1

children gone missing, "he said. All were later reunited with their families.

The other 5 percent were about garbage disposal problems on the night spree.

It recorded 2,000 cases concerning cherubery, police confiscated knives, spoons and forks, alcoholic beverages and banned gambling in summer prizes and series.

Hundreds of media and volunteers also set up field clinics to provide medical assistance. Radio reports said many fainted due to extreme heat in densely packed cemeteries. In Manila South Cemetery, DZRM radio provided free wheelchairs on every to assist the elderly through crammed taverns.

"The occasion serves as one family reunion," Fely de Leon, 64, a retired businesswoman, said as she laid out an assortment of food on small tables around the plane of her late father and brother at Loyola.

"We will be here for the rest of the day, and we expect more or less 30 family members to arrive."

Nearby, loud music blared from a portable karaoke machine—another sight at cemeteries—as a family ignored appeals from the Catholic church to keep the occasion solemn.

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) warned the public against fake priests roaming the cemeteries and inciting prayers for interceding families in exchange for monetary donations.

And for millions of Catholic Filipinos overseas who could not come home to visit their dead, the CBCP said it had put up a special portal—www.undasmillion.com/—where they could log on and request special prayers and Masses.

TENS OF THOUSANDS flock to Manila North Cemetery on All Saints' Day. AFP/JOSEPH VIDAL

Decline in numbers

The site also offers podcasts on the significance and liturgical meanings of All Saints' Day it said.

In spite of the generally good weather police reported a notable decline in the number of people who during the commemoration to the expensive All Saints' Day.

As of 1 p.m., Supt. Benigno Soliano estimated the people at Manila South Cemetery at around 35,000 compared to 300,000 last year. He said people passed through the entrances at one time, forcing to pulls as in previous years.

Reporters at the North and La Loma cemeteries said that while the crowds remained thinner, they were not as thick as in the past.

Inclusion's teams of 85 police officers confiscated cans of paint and pistol (knives), forks, scissors and other blades weapons as part of security measures. The items were returned to the owners on leaving the premises.

An elderly man was killed when he was asked to hand over the can of paint at the cemetery's entrance. "How would you do that? This is your paint. It wasn't explode," he said.

Workers were not happy at all with a thinner crowd. Gary Rosario, at a makeshift stall at a street corner inside the cemetery, described business as "sluggish."

'Epal-ikians'

At one cemetery agents of a company providing cash canvassers had a pink coffin where people could pose for photographs.

Apart from imagined photos and visitors, "epal-ticians" were also present in Manila South Cemetery.

Misuse of the term that served as information and help booths near the cemetery's entrances bore pictures and names of Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay.

The picture of Binay's running mate in the elections next year, Marjorie de Veyra, is on a tarpaulin at a booth offering free burials of women.

In Manila Memorial Park in Sucat, Parañaque, a security guard found two envelopes at the tomb shared by national hero Benigno Aquino Jr. and his wife, former President Corazon Aquino.

Addressed "To the President," ordering to the couple's only son, President Aquino, the envelopes were turned over to police.

"We don't know what's inside the envelopes. What if they contained some sort of explosive or chemical? We have to protect the President," said Lamberto Wela, the guard on duty. "Binawalan ko na kagad [I already warned them]."

Wela said one of many envelopes with yellows and white flowers.

Wela said one of many envelopes with yellows and white flowers.

The Aquinos' tombs were adorned with yellow and white flowers.

Belo said she is of more knowledge the President had sent yet visited the cemetery. "Last year, he came on Nov 2," he said. One of the President's four sisters, Viel Aquino Dee, dropped by on the all occasion.

Like fiesta

In Libingan ng mga Bayani, visitors set up colorful tents and tables filled with home-cooked meals near the tombs of their beloved.

"The atmosphere is festive," Dela Cruz said. "Besides, communicating officer of grave services still, said, "It's business."

No crime or any commotion was reported. People are very disciplined, probably because the visitors are relatives of soldiers, he said.

Lydia Maldonado's family was among the largest there. More than 40 relatives paid their respects to her father Marcelo Lappay, a former military man.

"We visit his grave every All Saints' Day," she said. "The kids are used to it because it's like fiesta."

On their table were pansit, pan and "adobo" food like bibi and sarmas, her father's favorites.

Some people waited for former Presidents and now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who however was able to arrive on minutes to visit the graves of her parents, former President Diosdado Macapagal and his wife, Evangeline, at Libingan ng mga Bayani.

Arroyo's son, Rep. Mikey Arroyo, accompanied her there. With reports from Rima Sriraul, Nathaniel S. Bitacuan, Ellis Calleja and Agence France-Presse, AFP

ROMANTICISM: A family prays for departed relatives at Barangka cemetery in Marikina on All Saints' Day. ALEX LOPEZ

CANDLES are lit and prayers are offered for the departed on All Saints' Day. AFP/JOSEPH VIDAL

Land developers near cemeteries making a killing

From page A1

Enrique Gomez Alonso projects director for township and service advisor for Ayala-Bonifacio Business Advisory, said around seven more completions, high-rise developments belonging to the Philippines' top tier developers were either on the verge of or within 100 meters of the South Cemetery in Makati City. All these developments have a fairly unobstructed view of the public cemetery.

"The closest is SM Jazz Residences (Jupiter Street), Pico Manor (Pio Del Pilar), Berkeley Residences (Jupiter Street), Pico Manor (Pio del Pilar), Shangri-La Residences (Shangri-La Boulevard), Rockwell Primaries (Rockwell Drive), Shang Properties' Shang Salcedo Place (Gen. Gil Puyat), Torre Lorenzo and Hy-tia la Costa (Estrella), Pinoy Place (in Kalayaan Avenue), Ateneo City (former International School), and so on, and surprisingly they have managed to sell their inventories well," said Gomez.

Glen del C. Cordero Jr., Jones Lang LaSalle Leechiu's head of research, consulting and valuation, said there had been a consistent notion that properties selling beside or near a cemetery would be difficult to sell.

Lately, however, Cordero noted that "there seems to be a growing preference to locate beside a cemetery, and whether this actually brings good feng shui still needs to be validated."

He cited the Manila Memorial Memorial Park in Sucat, Parañaque, as the development in studying. Montinlupa, right across the Muntinlupa viaduct, which sat on a former public cemetery.

Neutralizing negativity

National Real Estate Association Inc. chair Alejandro Mafiado explained that from a marketing perspective, the size and concept of the project—and the target market—can also "neutralize" the negative impression of its location near a cemetery.

"For example, there are projects just along the perimeter of Manila Memorial or Elizabeth Gohat City) which sold well. However, it is just restricted more as a beautiful park and a beautiful site that is a regular cemetery. The projects beside Makati South Cemetery—their size, number of towers, the number of units we're thinking of—the space base is of having an affordable unit in Makati has made the target market not mind being near the cemetery."

Julius Villanueva, Colliers International's associate director, advisory services and head of consultancy and research, said that historically, investors have avoided areas near cemeteries because of the perception that endless supply from these areas, and as a result only property near these areas sold back towns' valuations.

"There are some of the developments around Manila South Cemetery that is in the face of these superstitious beliefs. Three of the four towers of Jazz Residences are almost sold out. Other projects that are nearby, such as Bellagio, Lerato and Rockwell's Makati Place, are also doing very well. In this case, the convenience of living near centers of work and leisure coupled with the scarcity of land in the metropolis eclipse the fear of the possession," said Villanueva.

Soriano pointed out that start-up developers attending this lecture at Ateneo protested not to risk investing on properties near cemeteries and would just dismiss what these feng shui consultant recommends.

Good feng shui

Feng shui is Chinese geomancy, which uses the laws of both heaven and Chinese astronomy and earth to help people improve their life by receiving positive qi, or life force.

Citing feng shui principles, Soriano said that homes sites near a cemetery are highly undesirable.

"A cemetery has energies or dark energy of death. So a home designs, but still considered unfavorable, are former hospital and prison sites. So, how far is a safe distance from a cemetery? According to Dr. Jin Yit Lee, founder of Kuan Feng Shui & Geomancy Institute, homes considered to be safe are within 100 meters of a cemetery. Although some real estate agents say that many Chinese will not live within 5 miles of a cemetery," said Soriano.

Applying the principles of real estate was no problem considering feng shui principles, said Soriano.

Paranormal tourism

Abellana said that in other countries, the haunts of famous people are used as commercial zone for an establishment's added revenue.

He cited Winchester Mansion in San Jose, California, and another hotel on the East Coast, which actually boasted of the "Elevator to Hell," where the ghost of the hanger reportedly made his presence felt.

Soriano said paranormal tourism could be a revenue-earning extension of tourism programs.

"The type of tourism market is growing, as it offers interesting stories. It can be a powerful and unique differentiator among other typical tourism offerings as it can add intrigue and appeal for more eccentric buyers. Such a reputation will certainly bring in visitors. There is potential for haunted sites. Or, how far is a safe distance from a cemetery? According to Dr. Jin YT Lee, founder of Kuan Feng Shui & Geomancy Institute, homes considered to be safe are within 100 meters

Politicians as endorsers: There ought to be a law, 2 solons say

By Christine F. Enguero

ONE SENATOR endorses a hosting, a razor and a wristwatch, while another is the face of a computer school. Two others have appeared in television commercials promoting detergent products.

So what's wrong with politicians working as product endorsers?

A lot, according to two members of the House of Representatives who have filed a bill seeking to **penalize public officials, whether elected or appointed,** who engage in product advertising, reportedly to raise for election campaigns.

Under House Bill No. 2571, such officials would be removed from office, disqualified from holding any other government positions or from running "for any position in the next election." They would also be slapped with a "fine in an amount not less than double the amount of the value of the advertisement."

"Whatever reason these public officials may have in doing such advertisements is immaterial," said Representatives Rufus and Maximo Rodriguez in the explanatory note to HB 2571.

"The fact remains that these advertisements give them undue advantage over other prospective candidates. Further, they may have conflict of interest should an investigation be conducted by them on the products they are endorsing," they said.

'In any form or medium'

The proposed law bans the endorsement or advertisement by a government official of "any product or service in any form or medium."

One of the perennial survey topnotchers among the senatorial candidates, Sen. Francis Escudero, has a number of product endorsement under his name. He is the "brand ambassador" of Fratelli foods. He was even featured in a cooking demo during Fratelli's product launch last July.

Escudero also appears to aide endorsing a computer school, a razor, a wristwatch and an herbal supplement.

Sen. Bong Revilla Jr., a movie star who continues to make movies, also endorses a computer university in the past. Senators Pia Cayetano and Loren Legarda have appeared in commercials for detergent products.

Aurora Rep. Juan Edgardo Angara, who is running for senator under the administration ticket, has appeared in food supplement ads that include his father, outgoing Sen. Edgardo Angara, and his son.

Other senatorial candidates have also come up with their own TV commercials, without necessarily endorsing a particular commercial product.

Sen. Koko Pimentel has an ad encouraging voters to register, while Cynthia Villar is featured in one touting her livelihood program in Las Piñas.

Pilar Hidalgo-Lim, a leader of the controversial dabuson party-list group who is running under the ruling Liberal Party coalition, has a TV commercial promoting the family, which critics in social media have denounced as a form of early campaigning.

The bills sponsors cited a provision of the Omnibus Election Code that bars candidates from engaging in an "election campaign or partisan political activity except during the campaign period."

Bills penalizing 'grave' offenses resurrected

By Norman Bordadora and Leila Salaverria

THE THEORY observers of the fear of the dead appears to have galvanized lawmakers into reviving attempts to pass a law criminalizing the desecration of tombs or burial grounds.

In the Senate, the committees on justice and human rights is preparing to report out an allied bill—a substitute bill filed by Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago creating a separate crime for the robbery of cemetery items or those connected to veneration, grave goods or burial grounds.

In the House of Representatives, a pending bill filed by former President and Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo coauthored with her son, Lieutenant Jiko Pineda, Jr. proposes provides that desecrating the resting place of the dead through robbery be classified as a separate crime and carry harsher penalties.

Sen. Francis Escudero, chair of the Senate committee on justice and human rights, said a committee report was already being prepared for Santiago's Senate Bill No. 3389 that was last heard in the committee level in July 2011.

Santiago said the damage done by grave robbery "goes beyond the measurable as it was only dishonors the deceased, it also shocks or anguish to those who survived them."

"No matter the description of the grave, from the grandest pyramids to Jose Villona's simple and unornamented gravestone, this type of theft must be severely addressed," she said in the explanatory note to her bill.

Santiago's bill seeks to amend the Revised Penal Code by inserting a provision that defines grave robbery as "the taking of all or part of a tomb, coffin, monument, gravestone, or all or part of a commemorative, decorative, or other ornamental object or committed in a cemetery, graveyard or burial ground."

It seeks to penalize the culprit with a penalty one degree higher than those provided in Articles 309 and 310 of the penal code on the robbery of an uninhabited place, a public building, edifice devoted to worship or private building.

Article 309 of the Revised Penal Code now speaks of a penalty of reclusion temporal or imprisonment of 12 to 20 years. Article 310, on the other hand, maintains a penalty of prision correccional or imprisonment of six months to six years.

How to help departed loved ones go to heaven

By Cecily Torrevan

ONE A survey asks whether a loved one goes straight to heaven after death.

One can only be consoled with the knowledge that God does not send a soul straight to hell for failure to make repair done but also committed in life.

Because of his infinite justice, God created Purgatory, a place where the soul purifies itself after cleansing its suffer cleansing itself to be united.

Maria Simona, an Austrian visionary gifted with the ability to talk to souls in Purgatory, said receiving relatives could help their departed loved ones by offering Masses for them to expedite their entry into Heaven.

In a 1987 interview with French nun Emmanuel Maillard, Simona said the Mass was "the most efficacious means" to liberate souls in Purgatory.

Simona is Christ who offers himself out of His love for us, is a Christ offering himself to God and therefore it is the best offering."

Simona also revealed that the Virgin Mary "frequently visits" the souls in Purgatory to "console them and give them courage" and sends souls that have completely purified themselves to Heaven on Christmas, All Souls' Day, Good Friday, Assumption Day (Aug. 15) and on the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord (40th day from Easter).

The interview with Simona, who died in 2004 at age 60, was published in English in the book "Amazing Secrets of the Souls in Purgatory."

Excerpts from the interview appear in the prayer book "Devotion to the Holy Souls in Purgatory," published by St. Pauls Philippines (translated by Fr. Antonio S. Briones, SSP, and edited by Fr. Donde-T. Encinas, SSP).

Simona said the efficacy of the Mass on the purification of souls "also depends upon the disposition of the souls while they were still on earth.

"If they attended Mass and prayed with all their hearts, if they were to Mass on weekdays...awarding to their availability, time—they drew great profit from Mass: continued for them. Here, too, one believes who can be saved," she said.

Simona also said the souls of the departed "are very well the day of their funerals. They know those who are praying for them and those who don't."

"Those of their loved ones do not help them. What helps them is prayer. They complain that many of those who attend their burial do not pray for them," she said.

Visits from souls

Simona told Maillard she was often visited by souls given permission to leave Purgatory to ask her that Masses be offered for them and that their surviving relatives and friends pray the Holy Rosary or make the Way of the Cross for them.

It is the soul that decides to free chosen itself before praying itself to God, she said.

According to Maillard, who included her personal notes in some parts of the interview, the soul thinks that because because the soul drowns itself unworthy of entering God while still carrying the stains of sins it committed in life.

While waiting to be cleansed, the soul suffers from a constant, almost unbearable longing to be with God, the radiance emanating the sunset than on earth.

No going back

Simona said no soul would like to return to earth after it had experienced Purgatory. This is because Purgatory already answers souls that they are just one step from heaven and cannot go back to God.

The soul in Purgatory would like to return to earth because they already have knowledge of God infinitely superior to ours. They could never decide to go back to the darkness of this world," she said.

Still they find souls in Purgatory include those "against clearing love of neighbor, stubbornness of the heart, hostility, calumny," Simona said.

"I also know that abusive language and calumny are among the serious sins that need their eight purifications," she said.

Clean heart

Meanwhile, those who go straight to Heaven are those "who have a clean heart...a heart that does good to everyone. Charity covers a multitude of sins," Simona said.

"We have to help the souls in Purgatory (through our prayers), for they, in turn, will help us. We have to be very humble. Humility is the great treasure of the soul. Humility elevates evil," she said.

HALLOWEEN HANGOVER? A boy wearing devil's horns joins his family at Barangka Cemetery in Marikina City. MARIANNE BERMUDEZ

5-year extension of CARP sought

From page A1

land and has been able to process just a little over 70,000 ha, according to the lawmakers.

The DAR plans to acquire 17,504 ha of land under nonbond agreements this year, but lawmakers observe it has processed only 17,294 ha.

"There are [an some of the data that will show that the work of the DAR is far from finished. There is still more to be done, which makes it necessary to extend the life of the DAR and the effectivity of the CARP law," the Bulacan lawmakers said.

In their bill, the lawmakers want the CARP with reforms but, as Cacpet, to be extended until June 30, 2019. The law expires on June 30, 2014.

3 phases

The bill stipulates the DAR and the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council to, among others, grant the acquisition and distribution of all the remaining unacquired and undistributed lands until 2015. The bill also provides new deadlines for the process to be completed.

Under the Cacpet law, all landholdings with pending cases as of June 30, 2014, can still be processed even beyond that date, until the cases are terminated, according to De los Reyes.

Section 30 of the law states: "Any case land or proceeding in connection with the implementation of the provisions of Republic Act No. 6657, as amended, which may remain pending on June 30, 2014, shall be allowed to proceed on its finality and be executed even beyond such date."

De los Reyes has been criticized by farmer and Church groups for incompetence for his failure to pursue the distribution of nearly 1 million ha of the nation's prime agricultural lands barely a year and a half before the expiration of the program. Posters calling for his resignation are all over the DAR headquarters in Quezon City.

But De los Reyes insists he is on track in spite of the criticism, adding that distribution was dependent on the importance they gave to the lands which they were utilizing.

The farmer-owners their interest for the lands when they were still alive on earth, the greater also in the efficacy of the Mass for them in Purgatory," Simona said.

"If they attended Mass and prayed with all their hearts, if they were to Mass on weekdays...awarding to their availability, time—they drew great profit from Mass: continued for them. Here, too, one believes who can be saved," she said.

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'Occult, pagan practices ruin faith in God'

From page A1

DEVIL'S POWER Catholic priest Francisco Syquia answers questions about exorcism in his office at San Carlos Seminary in Guadalupe, Makati City. CHRISTIAN ORTEGA

Carried over from that period is the habit of treating Catholic sacramentals like religious medals and not regarding as exercise, like rabbit's foot, believed to bring luck.

Syquia recalled an observation made in the Second Plenary Council of the Philippines that "we are in a country where a supernatural has not evangelized."

Syquia said the Old Testament clearly indicated that "fallen[ed diamond himself from these books or false gods and was with the devil or the fallen angels, they were so easily allured and contaminated by them."

He added that it was specifically due to the heedless attachment to pagan rituals that they suffered misery under foreign powers.

Blocking God's grace

Today, the same adherence to non-Catholic rituals and practices is keeping many from receiving the grace of God.

"Most Catholics are unaware of the effects of these pagan beliefs and practices. The sad thing is that when our personal lives as well as our society as a whole fall into all kinds of difficulties, miseries, tragedies and immoralities, we would even tend to blame God for our lot," Syquia avers.

"When paganism and the occult contaminates the faith, the relationship of man with God is blocked and we can end up saying to ourselves that God is not interested in us, personally and as a nation (for) knowing that His blessings and protection... would not be able to fully enter into our lives," he explained.

"We are not aware that the ills, fallen lives, all the blessings, and the protection of God are blocked because we are leaving Him with a very divided and polluted heart," he said.

Practitioners

There are practitioners of pagan rites are then on temper in our Philippines, said Syquia but not others as follows:

■ Albularyo: Faith healer of traditional folk healer.

■ Mangguhuan: An "occult practitioner" who ships victims and interprets the resulting form as the cause of an illness.

■ Manghihilot: A shamanic who use incantations to invoke the assistance of spirits to heal or relax ailments.

■ Manunambal: An "occultist" who uses sorcery to cure natural and "supernatural" maladies.

■ Manghuhula: An "occult practitioner" who specializes in fortune-telling through card-reading or palmistry.

■ Mangkukulam: A witch who casts spells, uses poisons and makes use of elements in nature. The remedy is letting the witch to call off the curse or finding a more powerful witch to counter the spell. But this causes the victim's deeper involvements in the occult, as the remedy is more of is to break the spell.

■ Mambabarang: A sorcerer, in Cebuano, who specializes in the use of Bangus bowles and other insects to cast spells on his enemy.

Syquia likened sorcerers' in occult practices to selling God short "His power and providence [are] not enough, hence we seek out other sources of power."

Many are well-intentioned

There are, however, many practitioners of the occult who are not aware that their practice has evil roots, Syquia said.

"Difficulty of those who consume to only healing and blessing guided by paganism verifications as well as the many occult practitioners themselves are such unintended people. They have been blinded by fame, the great desire to help others, the joy to come as an angel of light, so that our faith will remain centered and God's blessings blocked," he said.

"Those trapped by the deceptions of this dark land is to be awakened to the fact that they have fallen into the trap of a master deceiver," Syquia said.

"They must be made aware that once they have opened their lives...[to] the occult, Catholic faith and lived it one in all its purity, then and only then would they receive the fullness of the blessings, graces and protection that a child of God and a beloved of Christ deserves."

"We can be fully blinded by pagan activities, but adherence to [pagan] beliefs and practices affects other aspects of people's lives.

Syquia, referring to a discussion of "right doer Christianity" by Fr. Anthe Bobadilla, S.J., says: "We have people who go regularly to Mass on Sundays and even receive Holy Communion, and yet subscribe to go back to work, they continue to cheat, be dishonest, and steal, and this is unfortunately any spoken of everywhere."

There are also those who treat their relationship with God like a business transaction, thinking that time spent on worship is an investment that must produce returns.

"This is how our interaction related with the entire Church and has been carried over even to the present with our relationship with God," Syquia said.

New Age

And there are also those who go with other New Age phenomena without knowing that it is what Pope John Paul II described as a "return to ancient Gnostic ideas."

The Gnostics were early Christian sectarians who claimed only they had the real knowledge of God, and, therefore, knowledge was considered a "luxury in the early Church," Syquia said.

New Age beliefs include actual projection, astrology, feng shui (geomancy), channeling, crystal healing, crystal healing, psychic healing, crystal healing, spiritual, spiritual, tarot, tarot reading, wicca and shamans.

Devil's power

Belief in paganism and occult practices explains "why the devil has so much power in our society as much as does many Filipino because victims of [a] supernatural dominion as a result of obsession, oppression and even possession," Syquia said.

"This is also the reason we have many so-called haunted places, churches they be seen, houses, condominiums, cinemas, hotels, schools, offices, condominiums, hospitals or residential houses," Syquia said.

"Paganism is for us as it has been throughout history...the devil is [always] behind the occult of spiritualism which is the work of spirits. I believe angels is also to enter into [right] into our world," he said.

Purifying the faith and working for a deeper understanding of Catholicism would eventually lead a believer to the grace, Syquia said.

"God infinitely desires to liberate us into only with divine peace, joy and the abundance of His graces but even [provides] for all our temporal needs. We can [say] to God to gathering God," he said.

"If we live only and trust to God alone by removing from our lives all things that are not of God, we would be surprised [at God's] infinitely loving our Father is," he added.

GOOD NEWS Agrarian Reform Secretary Virgilio de los Reyes shows the Department of Agrarian Reform's preliminary master list of land reform beneficiaries at the super wake served by the family of President Aquino, Hacienda Luisita, in Tarlac on Wednesday.

Customs to give unrealistic goal 'our best shot'

By Jerry E. Esplanada

BALEÑA

CUSTOMS Commissioner Ruffy Biazon is not one to give up.

The bureau of Customs chief insisted that despite the unrealistic collection goal of P347 billion set for the BOC this year, the agency was not giving up on meeting its target.

In a text message to the business newsletter, Biazon said his bureau would give it its best shot.

"I will only give up pushing my people to collect more revenue to meet our 2012 target on the last working day of the year," he said.

"The optimist in me tells me not to give up," he added.

Biazon described the bureau's collection target as "stretched," making it difficult to meet.

Baleña, he had told reporters that "higher targets are set for the Bureau of Customs to collect more revenue. But we should try to understand that these are stretched."

He said the bureau was made to "look bad every time we missed our monthly targets although we were able to surpass those targets year on year."

Time to review targets

He said it was "about time we review the targets ... we need to adjust how we look at performance. We might not have to adjust specific goals, but we should try to understand that these are stretched."

Biazon has repeatedly urged the interagency Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC) to set a more realistic revenue target for 2013.

The DBCC, which determines the revenue targets of both the BOC and Bureau of Internal Revenue, has set a collection goal of P893 billion for the BOC next year, up P58 billion over this year's target.

Biazon cited monetary fluctuations, international trade conditions, smuggling and corruption among the several factors that prevent his bureau from meeting its target.

From January to September this year, the BOC collected P233.3 billion against the P257.06 billion that it should have already taken in. Last month's over P7 billion deficit widened the collection gap to P43.7 billion to date.

'Too high'

The head of one of the BOC's top collection deputies, meanwhile, also described the agency's revenue target for this year as "too high."

Port of Clark International Airport collector Edward de Cuenca told a BOC media forum earlier this week that "previously our annual national target was only seven to 10 percent over the previous year's."

"But now it's a very high 30 percent. It's really tad double," he said.

De la Cuesta said the Clark "has been meeting its target the past four years, due mainly to our close monitoring of import procedures, among other things."

Now, ominously, it's another story. Other customs collection districts are having a hard time meeting their targets," he said.

Biazon said he would step up the BOC's drive against smuggling through its Run After the Smugglers or RATS program.

"We're also trying our best to improve the bureau's image. It can be done, first, through good performance and, second, by removing the perception that it is the public," he said.

New York City crawls back to life

From page A1

procurement in commuters that took hours, half-kilometre lines at suburban gas stations and city buses stuffed beyond capacity on Wednesday.

City buses, the only piece of the mass transit network operating in earnest on Wednesday, often bypassed waiting commuters, unable to take on more passengers. Buses who did make it on board often got off well before their stop, assuming that they could walk faster.

"Maybe when it turns green, people will start moving," Abraham Bateman, 26, said as he took an M103 bus stopped at a red light along Central Park West. Then the light turned.

Nope.

Eric Bustic, 27, waited 30 minutes for the M6 bus at 130th Street and Broadway before he realized there was a peak of less frustration in walking to work at Pantone Tower in Times Square, where he is a modern dancer. Plus it's free.

Bike, leg power

With no underground trains between Queens to Manhattan and no traffic unfold, some resorted the full Gork Queensboro Bridge on bike or foot. One Twitter user described cycling over the bridge as "escaping zombie apocalypse."

As power returned to some areas of the city, without encouraging spirit flourished. Still mired in darkened parts of Manhattan offered many perks by elite natural light, and outside the Old Homestead Steakhouse in the meatpacking district, Louis Stoners cooked steaks on sidewalk. Sadowan grills and waved them to the cars on Ninth Avenue, generating a line that stretched down the block.

On the Long Island Hall Road, drivable since hurricane-driven waters between Asbestos and Atlantic Terminal around 1 p.m. on Wednesday. The transportation authority said it was cautiously optimistic about restoring service that Jamaica to Pennsylvania Station on New York City.

On the Metro-North Railroad, the New Haven line resumed service on a nearly normal schedule from Stamford, Connecticut, to Manhattan. The Harlem line began running from Wassaic to New York City.

Service on the Hudson line remained suspended, as did most service for New Jersey Transit's rail operations.

Coping

Even when partial service were resumed, for many people those remained the dog of coping. The lack of everyday resources — electricity, lights, cell phone service, HGH, refrigeration, hot showers — created conditions of intimate stress around the city.

Food, prescription drugs, home health assistance, caregiver homegoers, mother children's school activities — all became tasks of anxiety that were likely will loom larger as the days went on.

In New Jersey, it was the hall. Inbound lines at the few gas stations open. The police department in Montgomery was under a 12-hour alert that the town was out of gas, and people should not be overlooking for it.

At the East Village in Manhattan, where power remained out, it was the frustrating lure for a working pay phone or a cellular hot spot. Crowds with laptops or tablets huddled around the hotel on Union Square, where customers keep them out of the lobby.

Other New Yorkers hunkered down for another night without power, millions certainly of what would happen to their homes.

Touring storm damage

President Barack Obama toured storm damage in New Jersey on Wednesday, but the president's motorcade was forced to turn around when it encountered gridlock on the roads.

Obama was accompanied by Governor Chris Christie, a Republican, who has praised the president's response to the storm. Christie had previously criticized the administration's response to Hurricane Irene last year.

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Desperate New Yorkers scramble for power

NEW YORK—There was a pandemonium was on Manhattan banks on Wednesday, but the panic was to withdraw electricity, not cash.

Hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers and thousands of tourists trapped by the great blackout are all desperate to get power to charge up cell phones and laptops.

Any spare plug in bank lobbies, phone booths, 24-hour delis and bars become overnight mini-H hotels for masses who have been starved of power since Superstorm "Sandy" hit the city on Monday night.

A queue of 10 people, including two customers with their dogs, snaked at 11am Manhattan bank on Third Avenue, in extension plug meant that three people at a time could recharge their phones or computers.

"Somebody brought the extension and left it, it's not ours," said a manager at the bank who requested anonymity as he did not have permission to speak to journalists.

"But we don't mind. People are suffering, a lot of our customers are suffering. Since the storm a lot of people have been coming here at night because there is light and warmth. It is really cold outside," he added.

Power grab

There was a similar power grab at bank lobbies across Manhattan where the lines are normally for automatic cash dispensers. People sat on adjacent tapping on their computers.

Bank lobbies have been packed through the night every night since the storm and if it's not electricity the people want, it's Wi-Fi. Some 56 people crowded into one branch when Chase added the letter signal late Wednesday.

Another crowd mixed with laptops was photographed crammed around the windows of a Starbucks coffee shop, which despite being closed during the storm still had Wi-Fi.

Pandemonium was reported on other big queue formed at the pocket at the entrance to a CVS pharmacy. Staff loaded dozens of shelves alongside the waiting tourists, making way to tonight to shop/Oreos.

"My flight home was cancelled because of the storm and I am not sure I will be able to extend my hotel after tomorrow," Polish tourist Anna Andrzejczak said, hoping to extend the life of his laptop and cellphone.

"It is my only contact with the world," he said.

Behind him, though, there were eight people waiting. And while the power queues had been good-natured, An disagreeable turned an attempt to use the plug every single drawn complaints.

Blacked out

More than 250,000 homes are reflected power in Manhattan, most of the lower part of The island has been blacked out since Monday night and the rest, in for those people is likely to last until the end of the week.

"I come here for a warm meal for my son and to charge up my phone," said Carmine Sowdrup, a Lower Manhattan resident who went to a 24-hour deli further north on Second Avenue with her 20-month-old son Jesse.

"It is a lifeline. I have no candles left and it is pretty grim in the southern part after dark," she said.

The deli looked like a camp site. Suitcases, handbags, laptops brought by the store's refugees were scattered across the 18 tables. Its Korean storekeeper Lee Han-Sok said, "I would not normally allow this kind of mess, but this has been an extraordinary week."

Free electricity

The lack of power has reserved some businesses of money, but others anyone more enterprise can capitalize on by helping deflated cell phone owners.

"Free electricity" said a sign on the door of a store in Lexington Avenue that sells vitamins and supplements. Inside, five people were plugged in.

"Nobody seems to buy vitamins after so-cent like this. But they do want electricity and most people buy something after they have charged up," said its owner, Pengcai.

AFP

CHARGE THE PHONE BRIGADE: Residents charge their mobile devices at a station set up by Lucy Wakamatsu, 11, who is asking for donations to aid victims of Superstorm "Sandy" in Hoboken, New Jersey. Power is still out in most of Hoboken.

suffering billions of dollars in damage, brilliant sunshine washed over New York City, for a while.

At the stock exchange, running on generators power, Mayor Michael Bloomberg gave a thumbs up and rang the opening bell to whoops from traders. Trading resumed after the first two-day weather shutdown since a blizzard in 1888.

It was clear that restoring the region to its ordinarily frenetic pace would take days — and that rebuilding the hundreds lost communities and the transportation networks could take considerably longer.

Storm's economic impact

Forecasting firm IHS Global Insight predicted it would cause $50 billion in damage and $10 billion to $20 billion in lost business. Another firm, AIR Worldwide, estimated losses up to $35 billion.

About 8 million homes and businesses were still without power, mostly in New York and New Jersey. Electricity was set as far west as Wisconsin in the Midwest and as far south as the Carolinas.

As New York crept toward a semi-normal business day, morning rush-hour traffic was heavy as buses returned to the streets and bridges linking Manhattan to the rest of the world were open.

A huge line formed at the Empire State Building as the observation deck reopened.

Tourists returned, but the city's vast and aging infrastructure remained a huge challenge.

Power on weekend

Power company Consolidated Edison said it could be the weekend before power was restored to all customers. Some areas of Staten Island, perhaps longest for other New York boroughs and the New York suburbs.

Amtrak said the amount of water in train tunnels under the Hudson and East rivers was so enormous that it was unlikely to resume some service on Friday to and from New York City — its busiest corridor — and would give details on Thursday.

"The uncertainty in the world," said Jessica Lestet, who was told it could be a week before she could enter her home in Connecticut. "Even if we had damage, you just want to be able to do something. We can't even get started."

Reports from AFP and New York Times News Service

New Jersey bore brunt of superstorm's wrath

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At least eight people died, and officials expressed deep concerns that the toll would rise as more searches of homes were carried out.

On Wednesday, President Barack Obama visited the outer boroughs and the destruction with Gov. Chris Christie.

"The entire country has been watching what's been happening," Obama said at a stop in Staten County at the Brighatton Beach Community Center in Brighatton. "Everybody knows how hard Jersey has been hit."

Perhaps as startling as the sheer toll was the devastation to some of the state's well-known hotels. Boardwalks along the beach in Seaside Heights, Belmar and other towns on the Jersey Shore were blown away. Amusement parks, arcades and restaurants all but vanished. Bridges to barrier islands buckled, preventing residents from even inspecting the damage to their property.

Localities across the state imposed curfews to prevent looting. In Monmouth, Ocean and other counties, people waited for hours for gasoline at the few stations that had electricity. Supermarket shelves were stripped bare.

Widespread distress

Two days after Hurricane Sandy struck, such distress was not limited to New Jersey.

Others parts of the Northeast, including Long Island, also suffered significant losses. Over all, the Atlantic will be more than $10 billion, according to the Insurance Information Institute.

"It filled the city like a bathtub," she said.

When the storm surge hit on Monday night, the shallow seawater the seawall at the north and south ends of the city in a devastating westward current that made an island of the eight-by-higher eastern half of the city.

Help from the Guards

After 2 dinner appointed for aid on Tuesday, saying that in many an 20,000 people would be stuck in their homes, the State National Guard trucks arrived just before midnight. Overnight, they responded to emergency messages to find people and transport them to dry ground.

On the city's Facebook page, officials called on residents in need to listen for the trucks' approach. By midday on Wednesday, 12 National Guard trucks and two Humvee vehicles were in Hoboken for the rescue effort. City officials have not reported any fatalities in Hoboken so far.

Among the first to be rescued during the night were two babies, one 1 -days old and another 3 weeks old. By midday on Wednesday, the trucks at the unloading point by City Hall were bringing older people, including several in wheelchairs, and many families with babies and small children.

Robyn Pecansky, who was eight months pregnant, was helped down from the back of a truck with her two children, who are 5 and 8.

"My son the National Guard, and I sent my husband to tell them he had to get his pregnant wife out," Pecansky said. She said the family lived in a third-floor apartment on Monday when their area was not damaged, but as of Wednesday morning the water remained at thigh-high level on the ground floor of the building.

She said that the children had been in the house under the canvas since Monday night and that parties were torn. When the head this power, which remained on in much of Hoboken, might not return for days, she decided that the family had to leave.

Polluted water

City officials were worried because the floodwaters are a brew of rain and store water mixed with sewage, fuimer said. A sewage plant on the west side of the city had been overwhelmed by the flood, she said.

Many power lines were down on the largely residential west side, although power remained out in many parts of the city, there was concern that some fallen wires might remain active.

The PATH train system, in the south end of the city, remained closed after water from the Hudson River rushed in. Port Authority officials said the PATH tunnel under the river was filled with water. Many commuters use the system to get to work in Manhattan.

Interviewed in the basement of City Hall, where some officials in a makeshift operations center were down to one working phone line on Tuesday, the mayor said the city had only a single pump station on the south end of town to drain its sewers and, eventually, its basements.

Havoc in Sayreville

In Sayreville, across Raritan Bay from Staten Island, the boundaries of several homes were washed away, following the outline of the foundations that remained. some 200 people who were warned, mostly by boat.

Hendin visited the area, and several seniors cried in his arms as they told his how much they had lost. The governor alternately embraced them, put his hands on both shoulders and spoke softly with them as he heard their tales.

"I don't feel safe in my house and I don't know what to do," said one of them, Elaine Szczepka.

As the governor walked down the street, he approached several people who wanted to show him their homes.

"Please help us," Theresa Mills said.

"That's what I'm here to do," he responded. New York Times News Service

WASHED ASHORE: Boats are overturned in a yard, where they washed onto shore during Superstorm "Sandy," near Monmouth Beach, New Jersey, on Wednesday. The US Northeast began an arduous slog back to normal on Wednesday after Sandy crippled transportation, knocked out power for millions and killed at least 79 people with a massive storm surge that caused epic flooding.

'PERSECUTION, NOT PROSECUTION'

Palparan files new plea in court

MANILA (The Court of Appeals denied the petition of fugitive retired general Jovito Palparan and his aide-de-camp Master Sgt. Rizal Hilario, sought a review of the rulings issued by Malolos Judge Teodoro Gonzales which, they alleged, were done with "grave abuse of discretion amounting to lack of or in excess of jurisdiction."

They asked the appellate court to review the motion of the Malolos court and grant their request for a temporary restraining order against the lower court and for the latter not to scrutinize with the proceedings pending resolution of the case.

Reversal of rulings eyed

They asked that the appellate court reverse and set aside Gonzales' three rulings and then order a preliminary investigation on the kidnapping and serious illegal detention cases against their clients. They also sought the latter order and hold deputation order against Palparan and Hilario to be quashed.

Only a week before, the appellate court threw out the petition of lawyer Harriet Mollaneda to nullify the Malolos court's order directing the transfer of Palparan and 19 others to the custody of the Philippine National Police.

Mollaneda had argued that they be given until Oct. 25 to question the prosecution of their clients in connection with the disappearance of UP students Karen Empeño and Sherlyn Cadapan.

Contradicting charges

In their latest petition, the lawyers said they were questioning the trial because their clients were charged with kidnapping and serious illegal detention when they were being interrogated by a Department of Justice panel "for charges of rape, serious physical injuries, arbitrary detentions, maltreatment of prisoners, grave threats, grave coercion, violation of Anti-Rape Act No. 7438, violation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Punishment."

They said the Bulacan court had denied their petitions to stop the proceedings and quash the arrest warrants against their clients.

They also said the Bulacan court had no jurisdiction over the two since because they were both at large.

"Clearly, the right of the petitioners to due process and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation against them were violated," the lawyers said, pointing out as well that their clients were not even given the chance to submit evidence against the charges filed against them.

"Kidnapping and serious illegal detention is a capital offense, which makes it even more imperative that petitioners be given an opportunity to present their defenses directly addressing the accusations," the lawyers said.

The lawyers said the only recourse of their clients was to go to the appellate court because the Bulacan court had barred them from participating.

The lawyers contended that the filing of the criminal cases against their clients without due process "smacks and reeks of prosecution rather than prosecution."

"With due respect, it is as if the prosecution has been given unqualified searching orders to pursue the instant cases against the petitioners in consonance with the present administration's mission to persecute alleged supporters of the past administration," they said.

Palparan is alleged to be close to former President and now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. (Christine O. Avendaño)

MILF elated by suspension of oil, gas hunt

By TJ Burgonio

COTABATO—Officials of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front have been heartened by President Aquino's suspension of bidding for oil and gas exploration contracts in the proposed Bangsamoro until a wealth-sharing agreement is reached by the MILF and the national government.

"We take the President's word (for it). Ink are guided (that) will be no awarding of contracts for the exploration of oil and gas," said MILF chief negotiator Mohagher Iqbal in a phone interview yesterday.

"(But) confidence must and confidence between the two parties," he added.

The government and MILF negotiating panels are set to hold exploratory talks this month in Kuala Lumpur on the issues of wealth and power sharing, including the touchy issue of sharing the MILF's future.

Mr. Aquino had announced while MILF chair Murad Ebrahim's suggestion made "(no) day that no bidding or awarding of oil and gas exploration contracts be conducted until the government and the MILF shall have finished crafting a power deal.

"We're not opening up areas, because (Murad) is right... sensible decision is one of the answers that have yet to be fulfilled," Mr. Aquino said on Wednesday.

Murad said vested areas in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM)—which an expanded Bangsamoro will replace—fund have found to be rich in oil and gas deposits, including three onshore to the Ignasan Basin, around Tiblalatan and the Gulf.

Murad said it was prudent of the government not to proceed with bidding and contracting contracts in the ARMM "until the wealth-sharing issue is final."

The government and the MILF have forged a framework agreement on the Bangsamoro that provides for, among other things, the creation of a Bangsamoro entity with greater political and economic powers than the current ARMM.

In 2011, the government offered to invite 15 energy blocks or areas for oil and gas exploration, covering a total of 130,000 square kilometers which are "mainly located in frontier regions."

With a report from Nikko Dizon

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that in the joint special meeting held on October 2, 2012, at which meeting, a majority of the Directors and the Stockholders representing at least two-thirds (2/3) of the outstanding capital stock were present in person or by proxy, the Board of Directors of TEMPLEWOOD HOLDINGS CORP. approved and the Stockholders owning more than two-thirds (2/3) of the issued and outstanding capital stock of the Corporation ratified the dissolution of the Corporation and the shortening of its life until October 31, 2012.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Collateral damage

EDITORIAL

SOME TWO weeks after an Army unit killed the wife and two sons of a Tiruray tribal leader in Datu del Sur, the Armed Forces announced that the 11 soldiers involved—one lieutenant and 10 enlisted men—would be tried before a military court. We welcome the news, and the unprecedented dispatch with which the decision to begin court-martial proceedings was reached. But at the same time, we realize that the court-martial is only the beginning. The road to justice for the pregnant Juvy Capion and her sons Jordan, 13, and Jun-Jun, 8, remains long and tortuous.

All of the accounts that relate the events of Oct. 18, even the statements attributed to military spokesmen, agree that the three victims were—to use the noncommittal language of bureaucracy—collateral damage. They were killed when a unit of the Army's 27th Infantry Battalion, in pursuit of Juvy's husband, the tribal leader Dagil Capion, fired upon them.

According to a relative and neighbor of Juvy's, Rita Capion Dinlang, she heard a short burst of gunfire in around six in the morning of Oct. 18 in the direction of the Capion family's hut. When she and others reached the place, they saw the victims, with the soldiers standing around. "It was a massacre. They were scattered and sleeping. Dagil was not around and nobody from our family's side could have started the fire fight," Dinlang said.

Right from the start, the Army had insisted that Dagil fired on the soldiers. But even the initial statements of the battalion commander showed that he knew the accidental nature of the killings. "We did not know there were unarmed civilians inside," Lt. Col. Alexis Bravo said.

A fact-finding report of the Social Action Center of the diocese of Marbel states that there was in fact no fire fight. And in explaining the decision of the Army's board of inquiry to hale the soldiers before a court-martial, spokesman Lt. Col. Lyndon Pimisa of the 10th Infantry Division the other day implied that Juvy and her two sons were in truth collateral damage: "There is a violation of the rules of engagement. You should fire only armed shots and determine your targets before you fire."

The Army is firm, however, that Dagil Capion himself is a legitimate target.

There are conflicting reports about Capion's fate; some allege that he was wounded but managed to escape, others that he was not even in the hut when the shots were fired. This lack of clarity reflects the controversial criminal character of his reputation. To undertaking activities opposed to the entry of Sagittarius Mines Inc. into the area, Capion is naively an environmentalist like them. To the military and the police, Capion—together with his two brothers the leaders of an influential tribal clan—is a mere bandit, notorious even before the mining company came into the picture.

But no one key point everyone, including Capion's own family, is agreed: The tribal leader is engaged in armed resistance to the mining project.

While we sympathize with the Bilaan tribe's concerns, we find Capion's resort to violence regrettable. But nothing he has done or will do can justify the strafing of his house and the killing of his wife and two sons. We understand that a daughter and another female relative, both children, were also wounded.) Nothing in the military's rules of engagement can justify dragging the victims' bodies out and leaving these out in the sun in an attempt—according to a report in Bulatlat Today—to flush Capion out into the open.

We trust the court-martial will establish not only which rules of engagement had been breached and by whom, but also whether the assault on the Capion house was the tactical plan all along. It is one thing to "determine your targets before you fire." It is entirely another to determine that a suspect's house is the target before even ascertaining that there are no innocents in harm's way. The lesson from over 30 years of counterinsurgency work remains the same: You cannot save a village, or a hut, by destroying it.

The Army has acted with commendable speed to determine responsibility for the Oct. 18 massacre, but to prevent the death of innocents in the future, it must also learn, in the field, to act slowly, deliberately.

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P-Noy, UNA's Holy Trinity killing our Constitution

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

WHILE WE remember our departed loved ones today, **All Souls Day**, let us not forget another thing that is also dead or dying, one we should all have said everything we have: our Constitution. Our basic law is dying, if it is not already dead. It has been killed, or is being killed, by politicians. The duly politicians are violating the provisions of our Constitution, principally that against political dynasties.

Our Charter bans political dynasties to prevent the Philippines from descending into the feudal times ruled by political families and to give others a chance to lead their communities. But politicians are making a mockery of this provision. Instead of political dynasties disappearing, or at least decreasing in obedience to the Constitution, their hold is increasing, unchecked by the 2013 elections. Almost every province, city or municipality has members of political dynasties running for next year's polls. The Ampatuans, Ecleos, Dimaporos, Garcias (of Cebu and Bataan), etc., are fielding their heirs of their families for positions from governor to mayors to provincial board members to governors to congressmen and senators in a shameless race to expand their dynasties.

Even the two main political parties, the ruling Liberal Party and the opposition Nationalista Nacionalist Alliance (NPC), are fielding members of political dynasties. UNA's Holy Trinity—Vice President Jejomar Binay, former President Joseph Estrada, and Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile—each has offspring running for senator: Binay has his daughter Nancy, Erap has his son JV and Enrile has his son Jackie. It is as if UNA is the only party able to provide clues offspring a rebels to climb to the Senate.

President Aquino's Liberal Party is no better. The LP has Pinoy's cousin, Sen. (Bam) Aquino, in its senatorial ticket. Who is Bam (Bam!) Aquino? He came from nowhere wanting to be senator immediately just because he is an Aquino, a cousin of the President, and a Binay against Inodoble. He has not even served as barangay captain or barangay tanod in his community, and here he comes wanting to be one of the lousiest Senate at least started as mayor, vice mayor, congressman or governor. Bam has no such representations of state duties. But like Bam, Nancy Binay is coming from nowhere and immediately running for senator.

To be fair to Nancy, she did not want to run for senator but, according to reports, her father pressured her to do so just because the two other members of the UNA Holy Trinity have their sons now running in its slate. Binay did not want to be left behind.

And at least Nancy is not trying to be her father's lookalike (which would be difficult anyway as she does not have the same dark complexion of her father), unlike those who shamelessly copy very hard to look like his departed uncle Ninoy, to sports the same hairdo and wears the same honey bees-themed sunglasses that Ninoy used to wear. And he wears clothes similar to what Ninoy wore. (What about Bam? wears people ask.) What shameless appropriation!

Another opportunist is Sen. JV Ejercito, who is changing his surname for election purposes from Ejercito to Estrada (why not go all the way and make it "JV Joseph Estrada"?). Ejercito is the real surname of President Erap, and Estrada is his screen name. JV wants to adopt his father's screen name, too, to take advantage of its popularity.

Jackie Enrile, on the other hand, is using the initials JPE, which stand for Juan Ponce Enrile, his father's real name. Juan Ponce Enrile Jr. is for Filipinos, JPE stands for Juan Ponce Enrile, the Senate President. What some go to the polls were just therefore, they will vote for JPE, thinking they are voting for the Senate President, but their vote will be counted for Jackie.

As the nation's top leaders, P-Noy and the Holy Trinity should be the first to respect our Constitution. Above all, they must not trash to defend and uphold it. But alas, they are among the first ones to violate it.

As President, P-Noy should lead by example, the same way he did with the "tuwid-waay." You'll remember that P-Noy, in his inaugural speech, prohibited the use of many letter blends as "tuwid-waay." And to set an example, he was the first to have the vines in his vehicles removed. The citizenry followed his example.

But in the matter of political dynasties, P-Noy, the President of the nation, is among the first to disobey the Constitution instead of defending and upholding it as he had sworn to do. He is expanding the Aquino political dynasty. Allow Bam, P-Noy's sister Kris (ah, well, her significant other she would also enter politics, apparently, some people surmise, because her husband is the current president).

P-Noy is also meddling two camps. He has relatives both in the LP and UNA tickets. Bam is in the LP ticket while his sister, Shagring Cojuangco, is running in the UNA senatorial slate.

There's more: If JV Ejercito wins, he will join his half brother, Jinggoy, in the Senate. Previously, Jinggoy joined his mother Loi in the Senate.

Then there's unfortunate Sen. Ilan Peter Cayetano. If he wins, he will rejoin his sister Pia in the Senate. And there's former Rep. Cynthia Villar, the wife of outgoing Sen. Manny Villar, who is aiming to replace him in the Senate via the LP slate.

The excuse of political dynasties in violating the Constitution is that there is no enabling law. But it is not likely that a law against political dynasties will be passed soon. Most of our legislators, after all, are themselves members of political dynasties. So it is up to the people to implement the Constitution. Do not vote for **all members of political dynasties.**

Priorities for Philippine aviation

COMMENTARY

Tony Tyler

AIR TRANSPORT plays an important role of connecting people across this great country which has over 7,000 islands and stretches for about 1,800 kilometers from north to south. And it has an even greater role connecting the Philippines to the rest of the world, facilitating trade and tourism.

The net result is that aviation is an important contributor to the Philippine economy. In a study conducted by Oxford Economics, it was found that aviation supports PHP1.3 trillion of economic activity—equal to 8.4 percent of GDP—and has created some 1,215,000 jobs. If we add in the impact of aviation-related tourism, the numbers rise to PHP2.3 billion—2.4 percent of GDP—and some 874,000 jobs (2.0 percent of the workforce).

Aviation's economic contribution to the Philippines can be much more than what it is today. Unfortunately, policy neglect over the years has led to safety concerns, inadequate airport capacity and high taxation, resulting in missed economic opportunities.

Safety is the industry's No. 1 priority, but there is a lack of confidence in the Philippines' safety oversight capabilities. It has been on the Category 2 list of the US Federal Aviation Administration's International Aviation Safety Assessment Program since 2008 and on the EU's Unsafe Air Carrier List since 2010. As a result, the economic opportunities that can be facilitated by Philippine carriers are limited when these carriers cannot expand their operations to the United States and to Europe. Moreover, this brings a stigma to the Philippines that does not encourage people to travel to and explore this wonderful country.

Small-class safety levels are possible: in fact, Philippine Airlines has been on the International Air Transport Association's Operational Safety Audit (IOSA) Registry since 2006. It has achieved the global standard in operational safety management.

I welcome the recent appointment of Lt. Gen. William Hotchkiss as director general for civil aviation. He has a huge task in front of him. It will take more resources and a strong long-term commitment by the government to close the oversight gaps, including staffing and training of oversight personnel. A strong commitment can be demonstrated by using ICAO and IATA safety audits for Ground Operations as part of its safety oversight requirements. There is no cost to the government. And many other governments—those of Brazil, Mexico, Turkey and Saudi Arabia among others—are using IOSA.

The Philippines also faces crippling infrastructure problems. Failure to make appropriate investments in air transport is causing it to be left behind in the Asian economic growth story. The World Economic Forum's Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index ranks the Philippines 112th among 139 countries for the quality of its air transport infrastructure. The only Asian countries to rank lower are Nepal, Bangladesh and Mongolia.

Manila needs a strong hub airport to facilitate the growth of the Philippine aviation industry. But where should the hub airport be located? There have been calls to develop Clark as the hub as Mega Aquino International Airport is operating near capacity with little possibility for significant expansion.

Clark has a role to play in Philippine aviation—serving the community near it, and for maintenance, repair and overhaul. But it is not the ideal choice for the hub airport in view of the expense. Building a new terminal building, a second runway and, not to forget, 100 kms of land transport infrastructure to link Clark Airport to Manila, has been estimated to cost US$ 13 billion.

A better move is to find a more convenient option closer to Manila. I strongly urge the government to explore all other possibilities. There are 30 successful hub airports that are located 100 kms from the city center. From Tokyo's Narita Airport is only about 50 km away from the city center. And with the reopening of Manila Clutch nearer the city to international traffic, **airlines are scrambling to secure slots there,** precisely because passengers prefer the closer options.

In the meantime pushed me need to maximize the potential of the current facilities at Subic—both the terminal building and airside. The implementation of the OAS. Worldwide, this Caribbean is now complete and has allowed some of the airspace delays. And we are eager to work with the authorities on further solutions. At the same time, we need to push ahead with a major upgrade of the air traffic control system, which is badly needed.

And finally, we commend to the Philippines is membership council. Ellendorf of the Commerce Center Tax and Gross Philippine Billings on foreign airlines will create "win-win" opportunities by lowering the total cost of international passenger travel by 2.5 percent, and increasing the number of international arrivals and departures in the Philippines by 1.9 percent. This will translate into a potential gain of up to $70 million for the wider Philippine economy from increased tourism. And there will be a positive impact on employment figures.

The IATA has been working closely with the Department of Tourism and other stakeholders in the Philippines on this issue. I look forward to the speedy passage in the Senate of the bill that seeks to eliminate these taxes.

The Philippines needs a vision for aviation that is big with joined-up thinking and with a long-term focus on enhancing competitiveness. We hope to soon see a resolution on the long-standing air issues. But to be really effective, the Philippines must adopt global standards on safety oversight and provide the air transport infrastructure needed to welcome growth and development. Only then will it fully achieve the full potential of economic benefits that aviation makes possible.

Tony Tyler is director general and CEO of the International Air Transport Association.

Two saints

COMMENTARY

Roberto E.N. Rivera, SJ
John J. Carroll Institute on Church and Social Issues

TWO MEN. Two missionaries. Two martyrs. They lived their lives several centuries apart. But in a span of a few days, the two were brought together in a most fortuitous and meaningful way.

Pedro Calungsod was recently canonized as the Philippines' second saint, a few days after the 146th death anniversary of Pedro Serrando. And I will share my take on the two who still somehow fit like one blessed, with a special insight into the witness of Ian Bolos.

After the festivities of his canonization in Rome, Pedro Calungsod needs little introduction. As the wizard of the Jesuit priest Blessed Diego Luis de San Vitores, the young Bisaya volunteered for the Marianas mission. There he served as a catechist among the Chamorros. Resented as the man he would die together with further into Mariana, killed by the very same people they tried to bring to Christ.

Bolos, on the other hand, may have us be introduced to a new generation unfamiliar with his story. As a volunteer with Jesuit Volunteers, he was deployed to Cambodia. There he worked in Banteay Prieh, a school for the disabled, many of them victims of the land mines that have been the scourge of Cambodia since the 1970s. One fateful day, a disgruntled former student started wielding a grenade threatened Bolos's class. As Bolos tried to subdue the student, the grenade fell and exploded. But I wonder was killed as his body absorbed the blast, thus saving both the assailant and the other students.

Two offerings of self separated by hundreds of years, brought together in a week celebrating youthful audacity and zeal. Little is known of the early life of Ian Pedro Calungsod—and even his martyrdom is somewhat clouded. But I suspect the days of his youth would have been very similar to that of Bolos's.

I cannot claim to have been among Bolos's closest friends. But I know him well enough to share the same profession concerns of our younger days. He was three years behind me at Ateneo de Manila College. I remember the long hours he would spend hanging out at the organization room of Ateneo Catechetical Instruction (ACI) or a member, his team-lead, during group and camp jokes with anyone who cared to listen. Ian still would bug me to no end about the rock music are both favored, where we deliberated the merits of Metallica and Bon Jovi both for thought they were great. I did not.

He entered the Society of Jesus several years after I did. Some of the most memorable scenes my experience I had with Bolos were in the basketball court, where I would often be at the receiving end of his wayward elbows. Bolos had an amazing knack of getting away with three second violations and offensive fouls. And being below it became unbearable among Ateneo players. Bolos was no expert at running and touch talking the opposing team. There in some games, however, would always end with good cheer. Bolos was friendly and gregarious, and it was difficult to stay angry with him for long.

But there were serious and solemn moments as well. During a 1995 Christmas meeting of Jesuit regents (seminarians assigned to teach and work outside the seminary) held at Ateneo de Zamboanga, we were privileged to listen to Bolos's moving account of his work among the disabled at Banteay Prieh. Ever eager to learn, he also had enthusiastic questions about my fledgling work with the urban poor at that time. But true to his happy spirit, he would be dancing and singing the "Macarena" (the popular ditty of those days) to wild attention during breaks in the meeting.

The last time I saw Bolos was in the Last Supper at as would see him alive. He laid down his life for his students the following October. The initial shock of the news was ultimately replaced by consolation over the heroic circumstances of his sacrifice. The inspiring witness of his whole life became even more evident as close friends, family and associates shared their experiences of Bolos's holiness.

Now something it is to imagine Bolos Calungsod being ordinary in the same way Bolos was—exuberant, fun-loving, perhaps even irreverent. Non-inspiring is it to see, emerging from these ordinary lives of the martyrs—competence in the Lord, strengthening us with their example of joyful faith and generosity. What Fr. Candino Servada, SJ, has written about San Pedro Calungsod can very well be said of Father Serrando: "This the love of the unlearned of unfinished" that we love, they are truly "a wonderful gift," their lives "reminding us of the greater call in the depths of our hearts, their whose our dreams be, wishing to be remembered, wishing to come near."

Truly, two saints for our time.

FSL

THREE STORIES today: Halloween, FSL and... FSL.

Friends suggested I do a column on how Halloween has been adopted in the Philippines but it is a topic that deserves only a few words: Pilipinos, uh, why must we Filipinos be duped again, adopting a commercialized driven expo-look, stuck and hard?

Halloween is an American invention but it's China that takes in the profits from its globalization, selling costumes, props, even some of the masks. It's a dilemma for us, with Halloween genuinely running counter to so many things we have teaching my kids: avoiding candies, not accepting treats of friend-by-strangers, and scares of all, our friendly confusing others or embracing. I wouldn't mind as much if we at least had some celebrating and hope and demands—but no, all we see and hear are witches and goblins and zombies.

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

That's that about Halloween. Now to FSL and FSL. Two of my former students, Bea Cinco and Peter Tiongson, asked if I could publicize the advocacy efforts of the Philippine Federation of the Deaf and the Philippine Deaf Resource Center for the passage of House Bill No. 6079, which declares Filipino Sign Language (FSL) as the national sign language. Specifically, Bea wanted to say there would be a march in Congress on Monday, Nov. 5 (meeting point: Philcoa @ 10 a.m.), so rally support.

Sure. I texted back. Then I thought an announcement in my column. But something else happened that convinced me to do an entire column on FSL, which, it turns out, has two meanings in the Philippines.

Sign language

Let's deal first with FSL as Filipino Sign Language. It seems consensus-natural that FSL should be the national sign language, right? But no, the proposed bill is facing strong opposition from an ASL (American Sign Language) camp arguing for the retention of the status quo, which privileges ASL over FSL. This includes the Department of Education requiring the teaching of Signing Exact English (SEE) in schools for the deaf.

SEE's alarming base use debates and interminable over language in the hearing world. Bad parallels in "Kings and Queen" (The Bossy logic of Big Cruz), do with the "English-only" proposals of some of our schools, the SIL Ethnic says, use dead used to know ASL to survive in the world. But that presumes the rest of the world uses English and ASL, which just isn't true.

The term FSL came about only in the 1990s but the deaf in the Philippines have been using their own signing for centuries. A research paper by Isabelita Abot and Liza Martinez cites historical writings from the Spanish's about signing among the indio, including their meeting between from 1566 to 1600. Jesuit in 1605 about a deaf preacher "...with his hand body moves, persuades, pleases, amplifies, argues, exclaims and vociferates... I have seen with great astonishment how he talks without noise but not without light, commanding light to the soul through the eyes of the body."

ASL was introduced during the US colonial occupation, but local sign language continued to develop, influenced to some extent by ASL but continuing to grow with its own vocabulary, grammar and syntax. For example, FSL has separate for "saving," "behalo ko," "for you," "thank coming into the house, and many more concepts and terms specific to the Philippines. It has its own dialects of gestures and expressions and other aspects of just-language (body language).

The English only policy for hearing and mainstreaming education borrows our cultural discrimination. The messages we send out are clear: "Who cares if Filipinos can't speak Filipino, or if the Filipinos deaf can't use FSL? It's only Filipino.

Filipino language

This is taking me to the second meaning of FSL, which I caught when I had to pick up one of my daughters from her dance lessons. Her school had just moved the lessons to a larger center allowing many other child-learning activities, and I hadn't really noticed the signs until that night, one of which declared: "Filipino Sign Language Center."

It didn't say FSL but that abbreviation would have fit as well. Thousands of Filipinos are already earning a living with FSL, teaching English as a second language mainly to foreign (and, in the past, to Vietnamese refugees).

But many Filipinos, English is indeed a first language and Filipino is only learned in school as a third (Cebuano or Ilocano, English and a local language like Cebuano or Waray-a). The sad part is that we don't realize how strange this can be. All our neighboring countries appreciate English, but it's unthinkable that Chinese or Japanese or Thai or Bahasa Indonesia would be taught as a second language.

Yet, I've actually heard complaints from local parents of children in private schools, asking why Filipino is taught now in preschool and kindergarten, with worries that the Filipino will "corrupt" or delay the acquisition of English. I've told my tongue-lost-gently reminded a parent, who is a close friend, that we live in the Philippines.

It's not easy getting upper- and middle-class Filipino kids to learn Filipino because they're bombarded with English all the time, from the conversations of relatives and friends, to children's books, DVDs and YouTube videos, and apps for games and education for tablets and smartphones.

There is keep reiterating I have nothing against English. What I do want to see is greater appreciation of Filipino as our national language and Philippine languages as first language other than English. I have another story to make my point. The other night while driving, I suddenly heard a woman's voice talking out the numbers "six, dose, tres, quatro...7 and asked my kids where that was coming from. Turned out they had downloaded an app called Halloween Counter (sigh), which counts down the number of days with numbers, with a voice counting out loud until the whole count is completed, at which point a Halloween creature appears. The kids had discovered the settings that gave a choice in language, and were trying French. I was thrilled, since they'd already picked up "tres, dos, tres" from the counter. Then I asked if they had Chinese, and they found and the cartoon "Si Xiao Ke Lan." This Halloween game allows all kinds of foreign languages plus Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Hindi. I asked if the settings offer Filipino, and they answered, sadly, "Wala." I should contact the app developer and remind them Cebuano is the 3th most widely spoken language in the Philippines, after Tagalog and Ilocano.

After all's said and signed, it boils down to this: fluency. We want Filipinos to be able to communicate with the world, but let's not forget, however, Filipinos need to communicate with Filipinos. When I bring my kids on a new market, or to urban poor communities, they chatter their way into the hearts of everyone they meet because they're equally speaking fluently in both English (wow, you're so engaging in English) and Filipino (ay, mas magaling pa sa Pilipino!).

Now will some white kid do more apps using Filipino, maybe a connect-the-dots game using the counting and more so peace, with the numbers called out in Philippine languages?

Ang Galing Pinoy and Akbayan

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

NOW THAT Ang Galing Pinoy (AGP), the party-list group whose representative in Congress is Mikey Arroyo, has been stripped of its accreditation, not by the Commission on Elections, brings to mind the saying "How the mighty have fallen."

If there is one enduring image of Arroyo, eldest child of former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, it is of him standing to the front portion of the House of Representatives, just before the session was resumed across his chest while a vote was being taken on whether to oust Jose de Venecia from the speakership.

Ostensibly, De Venecia was being held to account for "acts of treachery," with the administration raising such issues as his failure to appoint enough Mindanao lawmakers to key posts or screening the majority of congressional funds for his favorite projects. But everyone knew the real reason for the move (De Venecia's support for Noynoy Aquino had been a "whistle blower" in the 2005 C2E case, implicating Mike Arroyo, the then President's husband and Hillary's father, in the anomalous deal).

Then Mikey stood, imperious and glaring as every lawmaker announcing his/her vote, seemingly daring recalcitrant votes who voted for or against the very powerful Speaker. There was little doubt about who held the reins of power in that hall that afternoon, and even after Pempem Nograles took over from De Venecia, everyone knew he knew to whom he owed his position and to whom he owed, who ordered the President's will in the House.

Mikey abandoned his post as representative of the second district of Pampanga to give way to his mother in the 2010 elections. But he found a place in the House by running (and re-running) as representative of AGP, which on paper is supposed to represent security guards and tricycle drivers, a trade shared by since Mikey had never worked as a "blue-guard" and drove only fancy SUVs, as far as anyone knew.

* * *

IT'S a mystery why AGP was ever accredited by the Comelec for the 2010 party-list elections. But at least the Comelec today has found the gumption—if not the numerous reasons—to de-list AGP, even if Mikey declares he has not been losing out of politics.

Interesting, certainly, are the reasons cited by the Comelec for disqualifying AGP for the, the "total lack" filed in the House by its reps on the welfare of security guards, which has been languishing at the committee level.

The bill has just gone past first reading, and its sister progress through the committee level, said the Comelec, "reflects either a sign of sheer laziness or a glaring lack of empathy for the plight of the truly marginalized."

Second was the apparent lack of interest of AGP's leaders to defend its accreditation before the poll body. None of the party's leaders, not even Mikey, showed up at a December 2011 hearing set with the Comelec counsel to the contrary, that the party "purposely boycotted a hearing order of the Commission on Elections or it is not an all interested in fighting for the cause of the sectors it claims it is seeking to represent."

Well, it would be strange, indeed, for the once-powerful Mikey lawyer to come to the defense of AGP when he has already milked every advantage from his affiliation with it. Also, he's facing graver charges, his cousins before and with the Comelec counting to the countless time that the party "purposely boycotted a hearing order of the Commission on Elections or it is not an all interested in fighting for the cause of the sectors it claims it is seeking to represent."

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Signal from Palace abets abuses

LETTERS

ERIN GARCIA, mother of enforced disappearance victim Jonas, has a very serious concern about Malacañang's branding of human rights violations as "leftist propaganda." "I fear that the message inferred in such blatant act by undue intervention or justification for human rights violators to continue their abuses," she said.

The Philippine Solidarity Network of Aotearoa (PSNA) also takes exception to the office of the President's statement that one "views ensemble misinformation carelessly being disseminated by a number of individuals and organizations with ties to extreme leftist elements in the Philippines"; this according to Ramon S. Casiwang, secretary of the Presidential Communications Development and Strategic Planning Office in Manila, in response to a PSNA article in The New Zealand Herald. The PSNA had urged Prime Minister John Key to raise the issue of human rights in the Philippines and challenge President Aquino to make the country an "actual" democracy (http://www.nzher ald.co.nz/world/news/art...

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders, Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, World Council of Churches, international media and others responded (sometimes individually but mostly) concern over the continuing human rights abuses under the more than two years of the Aquino presidency. It's not only the "extreme left" that is critical of unabated killings under his regime's watch.

Bits of the myriad's reader comments on "Despite the assertion of Mr. Lacson, criticism of the Aquino administration's response to extrajudicial killings has not just come from the 'extreme left.' Human Rights Watch has announced its disappointment that no culprits or police responsible for killings and torture of civilians have been successfully prosecuted yet, even though Aquino has been in power for two and a half years. Last year the President also made a directive allowing mining firms to employ paramilitary forces. Amnesty International has called for these paramilitary forces to be disbanded because they have engaged in human rights abuses against local communities. Many people would take President Aquino's commitment to human rights more seriously if there were some successful prosecutions of those soldiers who had killed and tortured civilians, and the directive allowing mining companies to employ paramilitary was rescinded."

The Philippine government will continue to be monitored by the United Nations and other international human rights groups that do not belong to the "extreme left." It forces take steps to truly deliver justice for the human rights victims and refrain from resorting to its vile attempt to cover up its failures to end impunity.

—MICHAEL ENDRAJAS, Philippine Solidarity Network of Aotearoa (PSNA), Box 24444 Christchurch, New Zealand, valka@xtra.co.nz

CRAMMED. Filipinos inside an MRT train crammed like sardines in a can

MRT keen on profits, deaf on riders' plaints

ON BEHALF of the more than 600,000 hapless daily commuters of the labor-Rail Transit (MRT-3), I appeal, for the nth time, for its rehabilitation. How sad that my articles on MRT service, the last one titled "More fun in MRT rides unlikely for commuters" (Inquirer, 10/15/12), has made no ballistic dent on their ears. He would hem-the Department of Transportation and Communications, the agency that is supposed to look into and act on complaints related to transportation.

Instead, I read a full-page ad cited "Metro Pacific Investment Corporation (MPIC) backs P-Noy government's infrastructure drama for PH" that blah blah blah (inquirer, 10/17/12) and an article that came out in the Inquirer Lifestyle section titled "MRT3 board commends its counterpart with BOTC" (Inquirer, 10/30/12).

To ordinary mortals like me, these notice ups never direct steps on the face of the riding public. Nothing has improved with the MRT. In fact, it has only gotten worse. Many, if not most, windows and elevators are of no use to commuters. The perennial problem of long passenger queues during peak hours—from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.—remains unsolved. Passengers get pushed against each other and "smothered" at every ride. Every morning in Buendia/Gil Puyat station, only a few entrances/exit turnstiles are working. The guards on duty, instead of assisting to securely disperse, redirect MRT cards that are good for one time use. As to how those cards are accounted for, my mind still can't fully comprehend.

In my daily MRT corner, how irritating as loud cries the loudspeaker with every arriving train direct good-bye-inducing spiels—"Give way to the elderly, the pregnant women, children, and the disabled," "Dasal para sa kaluluwa," "Give way to those who are going out," "Get to the inner," etc.—spouted without a tickle of sincerity might because there's no inner dimension that can be spared for no more consonant. An MRT ride has become a carnival of the three pointers. Sorry sa lang to the weak and physically disadvantaged.

Dear Henry F is the Senatory Gringo treasurer and Bong Revilla etc. according to news reports, opposed to suggestions of an MRT/LRT fare hike. Seems good, huh? But the same hole is not on the fare. We MRT commuters are more than willing to shell out a little more of our hard-earned pesos, provided we are given enough comfort and space to move and breathe in MRT trains. If only to enable us to hold on to our dignity as human beings in an MRT ride.

Then, given MRT's current state, investing MRT fares is definitely adding insult to injury.

Our lawmakers, DOTC officials, and Presidente Aquino should finally get the rotting point: the long-deserved "fun" in every train ride. This is long overdue, for overdue is better than never. For a good start, it is suggested that they take an MRT ride during any of the peak hours so as to experience the ride of their lives and thus get the feel of how ordinary Filipinos struggle to stay alive going through the hell-O MRT rides.

—HELEN ORTEGA-GRACES, hlmorte@yahoo.com

'More fun in PH' feels more like a joke to 'balikbayan' entrepreneur

"SPEAKER Ft Sam goes to be a Filipino three days," then Inquirer reporter TJ Burgonio quotes President Aquino in the news report "Sixth goes to be Filipino" (Inquirer, 10/07/12).

"You can make progress while following the rules. You need not look for justice to uphill your life. To the new Pilipinos, we'll realize your dreams. If they choose to stay there in New Zealand or Australia, or anywhere else in world, with heads up high, our countrymen are proudly say 'Yes, I'm a Pilipino and my country is staging changes'."

Well, I am an overseas Filipino worker, and my personal experience belies this. I write this letter in the middle of a restless wait for government to permit in a manner befitting these declarations. On 29 make the second this month, to the day that my application to open a small thing store in Pampanga meets measure of a license to operate.

How does one deal with having to wait all of 42 days for a 30-minute site inspection by the Philippine health department's Food and Drug Administration? And to be told to wait another month for the license? Will frustration, how else!

Its lack of influential parents, being physically outside the country, and especially convinced that positive change can be achieved in partnership with my government, I have naturally been going by the book, and committing to do so, in an attempt to uplift my life and the lives of those around me. I am sadly not succeeding.

Still, maybe I will, by answering patience and perseverance be reaped the ordinary.

In the meantime, and for all this time that processing could have come not just in taking place, our pharmacists, so, a modest of two young children, has been rendered jobless by a Department of Health requirement that she resign from her previous employer before she can join another. This is the same government that enforces foreign investments so it can produce jobs.

How does one reconcile glaring realities with these presidential pronouncements? Does one attempt to all?

The Philippines "lags in the implementation of (regulatory) reforms that would make it easier for local entrepreneurs to conduct their business," so says the World Bank report "Doing Business 2013," as cited in Michelle Stoner's recent story "PH ranking in 'ease of doing business' slips" (Inquirer, 10/24/12). Of 185 economies, the Philippines ranks 36 for in the area of starting a business. Ditto overall in ease-to-doing business, below all other Southeast Asian countries, with the exception of Laos.

How does it move millions of entity.

Let's share, I, I had thought to myself about coming home to the Philippines for good. And I try to think I thought rightly, indeed, in spite of the rebuke of a bureaucracy that's supposed to support, not suppress.

Everyone now reads and hears that it's more fun in the Philippines. There done for a big joke indeed better than I'll have.

Somehow it feels like it's on me.

—MICHAEL ENDRAJAS, bookcaferdotcom@gmail.com

Assistant Editor Tony Bengcoja

Across the NATION

AUTHORITIES maintained a high level of alert for fraud in the recently concluded registration of voters, leading to arrests of suspected flying voters like this group being guarded by soldiers in a Lanao del Sur town.

Jalosjos bid to transport backers to Zambo bared

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Convicted child rapist Romeo Jalosjos is bringing in would-be voters into the city in an apparent bid to bolster his chances of winning the race for mayor despite the likelihood of his getting disqualified because of his criminal record.

Buses owned by Jalosjos and bearing would-be voters in registration caravans were apprehended here on Wednesday, revealing the influx of Jalosjos supporters into the city, where the child rapist had filed a certificate of candidacy (COC) to run for mayor.

The buses, named Bonaventure and after an amusement park that Jalosjos built for children in Dapitan City, were intercepted by Senior Supt. Glenn dir Baptista, a commercial complex in Dapitan City that was named after former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, a staunch ally of Jalosjos.

The buses were carrying Jalosjos supporters from the former Zamboanga del Norte congressman apparently wanted to register in the city to boost his candidacy for mayor.

Jalosjos' lawyer, Giovanni Lorenzo, said the apprehension of the two Bonaventure buses was "pure political harassment" against his client.

The CIO, however, laughed off the lawyer's accusation.

"What we did was a plain and simple enforcement operation and had nothing to do with politics," said regional CIO chief Abanes.

Joseph Ian Tria, election supervisor of the city's second district, said the Comelec couldn't do anything but entertain registrations even if they were based in by-candidates.

He said he would run any how many potential votes were backed in here but if the documents the would-be voters presented were valid, there will be a dramatic increase in the number of the registered voters in the city.

The city currently has at least 300,000 voters.

Tria told the Inquirer that would-be voters who wanted to beat the registration deadline on Dec. 31 cannot be deterred by absurd tricks and other vehicles.

"We observed the bunching of registrants by batchmates, mostly barangay officials, to say others. They bring registrants here," Tria said.

Tria said election officials in the first district noticed the same trend.

Although questions hover over Jalosjos' residency because of his criminal record, the now released convict pressed on with filing his COC for city mayor.

The Comelec had said its receipt of Jalosjos' COC was tentative and did not have any bearing on whether or not Jalosjos is qualified to run for public office despite his criminal record. —Julie Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao

Advice to flower buyers: Look, don't smell

By Desiree Caluza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—It is enough to admire the beauty of flowers that are grown and made available here for the All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day holidays.

Dealers of cut flowers said most flowers were grown here using chemicals that may be harmful should people choose to take in the flowers' scent for too long.

The flowers come from farms in the villages of Balluog, Alno and Ambiong in La Trinidad and from Mt. Data town, about 9 kilometers from here.

Eribelto Gawes, president of La Trinidad Carflowers Association, said flower producers and farmer cooperatives had explored ways to make handling flowers safer.

One precaution, Gawes said, is to encourage flower dealers and vendors to wear face masks and gloves when they package and arrange flowers which they sell to customers here and in Baguio City.

"Flowers sealers and growers have discussed the fact that too much chemical inputs are being used on flowers, and we have been telling dealers and buyers to wear masks and gloves. Some have done this, but there are those who still don't. Send that advice," she said.

Patricia Asunacyo, chief of the Department of Agriculture's (DA) agribusiness and marketing division in the Cordillera, said flower traders had reason to be cautious.

He said farmers were told not to spray pesticides and other forms of chemicals 10 days before harvest. The prescription gives the plants time to shed any traces of chemicals that are meant to protect them from harmful insects.

But Asunacyo said there were farmers who do not follow this rule.

"They do it [spray pesticides on days close to the harvest period] because they want to produce the best flowers. But we also pay them because they are supposed to chemicals and they don't use protective clothing. So the farmers are also exposed to contamination," Asunacyo said.

"Cut flowers are still dependent on chemical inputs because of too much termites and pests. There is information already flower farms and we assure to do away with pesticides. That's why we always tell them, eat to use protective gear. The advice also goes to those who repackage and sell them," Asunacyo said.

He said a way of determining if the flower is laden with chemicals was to look for white or blue powdery substances that form on the leaves. Inhaling these powdery substances, which are traces of chemicals, could be dangerous, he said.

Gawes said cut flowers trading here had been slow compared to that during All Saints' Day last year.

She said many people buy in retail or limit the amount of their purchases because of the poor economy. Some buy their flowers straight from the farms, where prices are lower.

Records from the DA Cordillera office showed that Malaysian meats, cattle, fruits and roses still rank as the top exporting to All Saints' Day. A shows Malaysian meats sell here for P90, down from P120, while a dozen anthuriums sell for P75, instead of the usual P120.

Every year, beginning on Oct. 20, the La Trinidad vegetable trading post, where flowers are also sold wholesale, is filled with buyers from Ifugao, Bulls, Bulacan, Pampanga, Zambales and Tarlac, Gawes said.

But many of these frequent buyers did not come this year, she said.

SM HYPERMARKET
HAPPY TO SERVE!

Cargo firm workers hold Nov. 1 rally vs layoffs

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—Workers of a nationwide cargo forwarder company spent their All Saints' Day staging a protest action against the termination of workers.

Employees of the Pambansa Cargo Forwarders Inc. (PCFI) in Iloilo have been holding protest actions in front of their office on Rosario and Ingeniero Streets after management announced the cessation/cease of seven regular employees effective Oct. 31.

The management claimed that it was reducing its workforce due to a slump in company earnings but the employees refused to buy that.

"They have no proof that the company is losing. This is part of a nationwide scheme to terminate regulars and outsourced workers and replace us with contractual employees," said Vicente Diamond, shop steward of the PCFI Employees Union (NCFLEU) and one of those laid off.

The buyout could not halted in contract representations of the company at their Iloilo and Manila offices.

Diamond, 53, said he had worked for the company for 10 years. According to him, some days after laid off had worked for 26 years.

"We have been loyal to the company, how can we feed our families?" he told Inquirer.

Diamond said management had offered a compensation package but he said they were denied this pension and extended their jobs.

Management and the nonworkers employees' union had signed a five-year collective bargaining agreement last month which provided among others, grievance mechanisms, no workers' security of tenure.

But seven employees had been terminated without due process, said Rustilo Lores, head of the union.

"It would be a bleak Christmas for the families of the seven employees," said Lores.

The labor union on Oct. 29 filed a complaint against the company for alleged unfair labor practices at the National Labor Relations Commission.

Procrastination shows in voter registration

BLR SCENE of procrastination plaguing many Filipinos, hundreds of would-be voters queue to register on the last day of filing up as voters at the Commission on Elections office in Cebu City despite having an entire year to do so.

BY WHAT could be the best illustration of how procrastination affects many Filipinos, thousands of new voters lined to beat the registration deadline on Tuesday swamping election offices with work and prompting officials to ask an eloquent question: Where have you been?

"The response of the people to our call to register is overwhelming, but their response is too late," said Atimonan Provincial Registrar, election supervisor Jessica Cano.

The Comelec started registering new voters last year but thousands chose to wait until the deadline on Oct. 31 to get up.

"We have been waiting for you," Antipolo City registrar is telling people waiting in line to register as new voters in Rizal province.

In Iloilo, alone, Antipolo said ran as high as 3,000 new voters queued for registration per day. It peaked to 5,000 on the last day of the registration, she said.

The scene is no different elsewhere. In Cagayan de Oro City, hundreds of new voters queued outside the city tourism hall where Comelec held satellite registration.

Lawyer Abdi Ramirez, Cagayan de Oro election officer, said the Comelec office there had been receiving 400 new voters per day since Oct. 8. The number ballooned to 1,000 on deadline day.

Actors, actresses

In the Visayas, late attempts to register like kept Comelec officials busy.

Among the thousands who registered on the day of the deadline was actress Ruffa Gutierrez who wants to cast her vote in Cebu where her brother, Ilonot mayoral candidate Rama, is running for local office.

Marshall Sarao, election officer of Cebu City's north district, said Ruffa was accompanied by Annabelle Ruffa's father, actor Eddie Gutierrez and younger brother John Rey, also registered in the district.

Ruffa's brother, actor Raitland, also registered in the district.

The lines were long at Comelec office in the Visayas as early as 4 a.m. in the case of Bacolod City.

Same was the Comelec office in Cebu could attend to only 500 registrants per day.

In Iloilo City, according to election officer Jonathan Espino, the Comelec office accommodated up to 1,500 registrants a day.

In Region 10 (Northern Mindanao), the Philippine National Police had to send more policemen to secure Comelec offices in the province's cities and cities after the course of a spike in the number of people who wanted to register, according to the province's election supervisor, Assita Ramos.

The number of voters in Misamis Oriental could reach 1.5 million, Ramos said.

Long queue

In Bacolod City the Comelec had to hold the registration at the Bacolod Arts and Trade Center to accommodate three lines.

In Tacloban City, Leonardo Orobia, the city election officer, said Comelec employees had been working beyond regular hours a day to accommodate new voters. The number of registered voters in the city alone could reach 160,000, Feliciano said. The current number of voters in Tacloban is 98,320.

In Capiz, election officials prepare a 10-percent increase in the number of voters. The province currently has 402,555 voters.

No documents

In Lanao, the influx of people wanting to register to new voters has caused concerns among politicians.

"This has not happened before. We are alarmed at the bloated number of registrants in this coming election. And this is a concern not only here, but in other parts of the province," said Hermie Yap, mayor of Bacolor town.

Elena Gobbi-Javier, Tondo election supervisor, said many new voters were unable to present documents or proofs of identities but dying voters could be removed from the list through a voting process by Comelec.

"Sometimes the problem is that, like in the case of the nurse, they really don't have much documents," said Javier.

In the Cordillera, election officials said most new voters are youths on their summer breaks.

Vanessa Bascal, assistant Comelec director in the Cordilleras, said the number of youths registering as new voters could increase the number of voters in the region by 10 to 15 percent.

In Pangasinan, Romeo Resurreccion, Dagupan city election officer, reported an increase of registered voters this year with 93,366 as of Oct. 31. This was more than the 60,000 voters registered for the 2010 elections.

In the City of Malolos, poll officials also observed increases in the number of voter applicants in the least populated areas.

Lawyer Elmo Dungca, Bulacan election officer, said the town of Doña Remedios Trinidad, with 5,000 voters, has the smallest number of residents among 23 towns, has been getting 300 daily voter applicants.

In Pampanga, poll records show that Central Luzon averaged 800 registrants on the eve of the deadline, one of the regions in the country.

"It's very heavy," said lawyer Emmanuel Ignacio, Comelec assistant regional director, on Tuesday.

Central Luzon might not be the only region in the 2013 elections. The number of registered voters in the region for the May 13, 2013 polls reached 9.4 million, expected to be "new challenges," Comelec Regional Director Esmeralda Amora said.

Tolentino Sarayle and Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon; and Nestor Burgos Jr., Felipe Celoza, Carlo Gerona, Jhannon Napallacan and Joey Rebimbas, Inquirer Visayas

Pangasinan execs urge students: Be objective

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—A ranking provincial official has urged detractors of Gov. Amado Espino Jr. to look at projects of the provincial government objectively to fully appreciate their socioeconomic impact.

Addressing campus workers in Lingayen attending a journalism workshop here, Provincial Administrator Rafael Baraan said government projects should "be carefully studied on a bigger picture."

"We always appreciated, but not educated," he told the student writers, but obviously referring to detractors of Espino.

A group, which was supposed to have started the development of a 300-hectare ecotourism site here during the previous administration, but, is now championing the opposition, "by falsely claiming that the provincial government project was a black sand mining operation," Baraan said.

"Sadly, this same group of political detractors that snubbed the ecotourism zone proposal is moving heaven-to-hell to derail ongoing development in Dagupan," he said.

He said the development of the ecotourism project necessitated the removal of constructed

> 'We are not destroying the area. We are enhancing it'

structures in the explored 66th portion and needed for the planting of elegant grass for an 18-hole golf course.

"Unfortunately, critics maliciously viewed the removal of the structures as mineral resource to black sand mining," he said. "We are not destroying the area. We are enhancing it," he added.

The project site, which spans the coastal villages of Sabangan, Bolosan, Malawa, Malimpin and Capanducan here, was awarded to the provincial government by then President Fidel Ramos, who recommend its construction as ecotourist zone.

Residents of these villages voted in favor of proceeding with the golf course during a public consultation in Carranglan Elementary School here in July.

That consultation was the last of a series of meetings held since March to fulfill the prerequisites for obtaining an environmental compliance certificate for the project.

Opponents of the project solicited recently at the Ombudsman in Manila demanding accountability from provincial officials for the project. Report from Gabriel Cardinoza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

AKB not barred from seeking SC relief—experts

A RIVAL party-list group yesterday denied it was riding on the popularity of star-fired 1SAGA, a party-list group that topped the May 2010 elections, to run in next year's elections, even as legal experts have been quoted as saying this Kasi, which bore disqualification, is not barred by any law from seeking relief from the Supreme Court.

Edgar Gannaban, head of the party-list group Akbay Kalusugan, said statements attributed to Abs Kasi Rep. Rodel Batocabe naming Akbay Kalusugan were simply riding on the popularity of AKB in a "ridiculous distortion."

Naing Bikolnon still serves its such a thing," said Gannaban.

AKB is questioning at the Supreme Court a ruling by the Commission on Elections disqualifying it from next year's elections, questioning Comelec's jurisdiction.

But according to election lawyer Romulo Macalintal, AKB has the right to question the Comelec jurisdiction when it submitted itself to Comelec processes to acquire accreditation and to register as a party-list group in the May 2010 elections.

Two legal experts, however, said there is no law prohibiting AKB from seeking relief from the high tribunal.

Justice Secretary Leila de Lima, herself a former election lawyer, said going to the Supreme Court is "always an available remedy."

Lawyer Jose Calida, a University of the Philippines law professor, said cases involving "disqualified" parties don't generally fall within the "concerns exclusively" proving that Akbay Kalusugan was riding on AKB.

Rep. Manuel Mamba, head of the Presidential Legislative Liaison Office, said security measures are in place by time to when she is arraigned today in the Regional Trial Court Branch 9 in Aparri town.

But supporters in the Northern Province of Kalinga-Apayao (Ilocos), an affiliate of people's organizations in Cagayan, were alarmed over reports that Gonzales' administration was being planned.

Sources said she received information that she would be harassed if she did not soften her stance against supporters staging in Gonzaga.

Thus A was supposedly to have no killed. Plus B was for the group to kill someone from which got 1.3 million votes in the 2010 elections, the highest for a party-list group.

"Contrary to what he is claiming, we, as Akbay Kalusugan, are actually distancing ourselves from Abs Kasi," said Gannaban.

He also said accusations that Akbay Kalusugan is "fabricating" was pure fabrication.

"Disqualified" parties don't possess to determine the qualifications of party-list representatives," said AKB is in position for a temporary restraining order against Comelec in the Supreme Court. Report from Philip Sebayo

'Cyber-Perling' declines Church refuge

By Melvin Gascon
Inquirer Northern Luzon

GONZAGA, Cagayan—The unrunning activist, who was accused to be biased during both a Facebook party, has declined offers by the Catholic Church to provide her sanctuary despite threats to her life supposedly due to her opposition to black sand mining here.

Reporter Garcia, 62, said she did not want people to think that she had gone into hiding, which might embolden her enemies to silence other mainstream activists.

"Hiding might not lead my enemies to claim victory and publicly announce that they have succeeded in silencing me. I am very grateful for the show of concern, but I have to face it," she said, referring to the offer made by priests in the archdiocese of Tuguegarao.

Garcia, who is out on bail for libel charges filed by former Gattiln Provincial Jr., said she feels safe moving in her house in Calagcan village here.

Garcia, who is running for mayor against Pantaleon, said she has been taking safety precautions wherever she leaves her house. "I realize it is a point that my allies know that I am just around, but at the same time, not make myself an easy target for criminals," she said.

She also declined to seek the help of police. Former Cagayan

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POSSESSED Jogged to help enforce an order of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau dismantle machines being used for illegal mining in Bayog, Zamboanga del Sur

Zambo Sur mines sealed off

Intel report on entry of guns, explosives cited in move by firm

IPIL CITY—A multinational mining firm is hosting the entry of combatant into an area covered by its license to mine in a town in Zamboanga del Sur after receiving intelligence reports about caches of firearms and explosives being smuggled in by illegal miners.

In a statement, TVI Resource Development (Phils.) Inc. (TVIRD), said the intelligence reports prompted the firm to seal off an area in Bayog, Zamboanga del Sur, that is covered by a mineral production sharing agreement (MPSA) that the firm received from the government.

"The entry restriction is finalizing is a precautionary measure that the company is taking to protect the safety of the community," the statement quoted Yulo Dyson, TVIRD vice president for operations, as saying.

Two weeks ago, members of the police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group raided several mine processing facilities in Bulalog and seized high-powered firearms, 4,000 meters of explosive detonating cord, four sacks of dynamites and ammunition.

Police also seized over 400 kg of cyanide and gallons of mineral acid, which are being used in illegal mining operations.

Lucinio Wenda, a Subanen leader in the mining area, said TVIRD's area covers 4,379 hectares in Barangay Balulang in Bayog.

A group of small-scale miners calling itself Bistro Oro Small-Scale Miners Association (Bomsma) has started digging tunnels and removing gold ore in the area, prompting a complaint from Bomsma.

Bomsma officials said they were not aware of the raid and the seizure of explosives.

Yulo said overlapping mining claims are no matter for cases of violence in the area. Manolo Ismoff was attacked by men identified with illegal mining, leading to the death of his 12-year-old son.

During the raid that yielded almost half a ton of cyanide, 10 men were also arrested who turned out to be working as security guards for the group Mesotite. With a report from Julie Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao

Study tour leads to turtles' freedom

TAKE care Jade and 15 tortoises, under the care of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources' Research Center in Dagupan City, are released in their natural habitat at Lingayen Gulf and Pharmak River by students who toured the center's facility to see the animals.

SAGUDAN CITY—Students in this city on Thursday released a sea turtle and 10 tortoises to their natural habitat at the mouth of Pantuk River here.

Pinolly Rosario, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Research Center chief, said the release of the water creatures served as a lesson on protection of animals to the seven college, 20 high school and 18 elementary students who joined the activity.

The students, led by Margarita Pelaez, a third-year medicine student at Davao Doctors College, visited the Philippine Eagle Center in Malagos, Quezon City, first released the tortoises toward Lingayen Gulf.

But being freshwater species, they wanted threatened on the students collected them and took them to the river's upstream.

The students were later treated at the fish sanctuary where they learned to a lecture on sea creatures and offered farmers as marine animals learned them, as part of the center's celebration of All Saints' Day.

Rosario said the turtles have been surrendered to the BFAR center since 2011. The dozen brought the turtles in the center or were sold to them in their homes but they immediately surrendered them to the center, he said.

The biggest was the 90-kg Olive Ridley turtle surrendered by Hadda Abubo and four Palawan Bleeding turtles.

The 30 tortoises, which weighed between 458 grams and 1.1 kg, were taken in the center by residents of Calauian, Isla Island, and this city.

The BFAR, Rosario said, has been keeping an 18-kg green sea turtle in Charlotte aquafarm because its right fore limb is broken and is still weak. Eduardo Sotelo, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Halloween crowds pack Boracay, too

By Honor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

KALIBO CITY—Crowd watching was more fun on New. I was only in semesters but also in Boracay where thousands of people are now spending a four-day holiday.

PO1 Jane Llegado, desk officer of the Boracay Tourist Assistance Center (BTAC), said police expected the number of tourists in Boracay to double during the holiday break.

Dindo Miguel Atienza, manager of the Boracay Regency hotels, said the firm's three hotels with 886 rooms were fully booked.

The Halloween spirit in Boracay, is as much a part of celebration in Boracay as are the world-renowned island's white sand beaches during the four-six week days.

Hotels organized Halloween parties, and hotel workers dressed up in Halloween costumes.

Chief Supt. Agrimero Cruz, Western Visayas police director, said the regional police sent 50 more policemen to Boracay to reinforce the 130-man police force.

The BTAC, the island's police office, has one policeman on patrol in key areas in Boracay.

Around tourist arrivals on the island breached the million mark for the first time on Oct. 26, ahead of the government's year-end target.

Annual tourist arrivals in Boracay have grown consistently for the past several years from 609,339 in 2009, 779,184 in 2010 to 998,075 last year. Tourism revenues also increased from P11.9 billion in 2009, P14.3 billion in 2010 to P16.7 billion last year.

Boracay is world famous for its white sand beaches but development on the island has gone berserk, leading to many establishments being built away on build rules.

17 drivers fail Cebu random drug tests

By Bonnie Nepomuceno
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—Seventeen drivers of public utility vehicles were found positive of drug use in surprise roadside drug tests conducted here by the Land Transportation Office (LTO) on Tuesday.

Israel Tandoy, regional LTO director, said 16 were found positive of using shabu while another was tested positive of marijuana use.

Tandoy said the LTO conducted the drivers' license revalidating fair tests.

If additional tests yielded similar results, Tandoy said the licenses of these drivers would be suspended for a minimum of 90 days and a maximum of six months.

The drivers would be required to show proof that they had undergone a rehabilitation program from a drug rehabilitation center accredited by the Department of Health.

Tandoy said the roadside drug test was part of the LTO's road safety program in time for the All Souls' and All Saints' Day celebrations.

LTO personnel also conducted roadside inspection of buses and jeepneys to check if the vehicles are road worthy.

The roadside drug test and inspection started on Tuesday and will continue until Nov. 4.

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T'Blazers send Lakers to 0-2 start

PORTLAND—Dwright Howard made his free throws, had a monster game and it still wasn't enough to save the fancied Los Angeles Lakers.

Jo Lawson Portland Trail Blazers got 26 points from Nicolas Batum and led by as many as 32 points in a 116-106 over the Lakers in the NBA Wednesday.

Damian Lillard, the ninth overall pick in the June draft, had 22 points and 13 assists in his NBA debut for Portland, which survived Howard's 23 points and 14 rebounds.

Howard, who debuted for LA shooting 5-of-14 from the stripe in an opening day loss to Dallas, made 13 of 19 free throws this time. But more than failed to rescue the Lakers from dropping to a 0-2 start to the season.

"We've got to learn how to play together," said Howard. "You've got to be good before you can be great."

The Lakers' troubles were compounded by the loss of guard Steve Nash to what appeared to be a left knee injury late in the first half.

Nash, acquired by the Lakers this summer, collided with Lillard and limped to the locker room.

"We're not sharp," Nash said. "I think the guys are trying, we just didn't live up to what we're trying to do."

Babe Bryant had 20 points for the Lakers.

In Toronto, George Hill scored the go-ahead basket with two seconds left, completing the Indiana Pacers' rally for a season-opening 99-98 victory over the Raptors.

David West scored 14 of his 23 points in the fourth quarter, and Paul George had 14 points and 13 rebounds for the Pacers, who trailed 89-74 with just under six minutes left. Roy Hibbert added 14 points for Indiana.

In New Orleans, The Hornets scored 24 points, Tyson Chandler had a huge three-pointer, and the San Antonio Spurs opened the season with a 99-95 triumph over the Hornets to The debut for top draft pick Anthony Davis.

Davis logged 22 points and seven rebounds, a promising start for the player who spent only one year at Kentucky, leading the Wildcats to the championship.

In Chicago, Joakim Noah scored 23 points and grabbed 10 rebounds, and the Bulls got off to a good start without Derrick Rose, beating the Sacramento Kings, 93-87.

Richard Hamilton added 19 points, while Carlos Boozer chipped in with 16 points and eight rebounds.

In Philadelphia, Spencer Hawes had 16 points and 11 rebounds to lead the 76ers to an 89-75 win over the Denver Nuggets.

In Salt Lake City, Mo Williams and Marvin Williams each scored 21 points to lead the Utah Jazz over the Dallas Mavericks, 113-94.

In Phoenix, Carl Landry scored 14 of his 17 points in the fourth quarter and the Golden State Warriors overcame an awful night by Stephen Curry to top the Suns, 97-93.

Curry, who earlier in the day agreed to a four-year, $44 million extension with the Warriors, missed his first 10 shots from the field and missed up 2 of 14 with five points. AP

RIVALRY RENEWED

Clippers trip Grizzlies

THE LOS Angeles Clippers picked up where they left off in their heated, cling rivalry with the Memphis Grizzlies, claiming a 100-90 home win tonight to the season opener for both teams on Wednesday.

Posting a 12-point side they edged out over seven games in the Western Conference first-round playoffs last season, the Clippers prevailed in a scrappy and contentious ill-tempered renewal courtesy of a strong fourth quarter.

"My home it was going to be hard fought and chippy," Los Angeles point guard Chris Paul told reporters. "When the schedule was released over the summer, I'm sure players on both teams were like, 'I'm sure this isn't a coincidence.'"

It was no coincidence that Paul

LOS ANGELES Clippers superstar Blake Griffin soars for a highlight slam. AFP

Huge Harden debut fuels Rockets

MARC Hanlon delivered a monster debut for Houston on Wednesday with 37 points and 11 assists just hours after the Rockets stamped up the massive contract he had been seeking in Oklahoma City.

Harden, the NBA's reigning Sixth Man of the Year, was traded to the Rockets on Saturday after the Thunder balked at his demands for a contract extension.

While Oklahoma City were reluctant to invest so heavily in Harden, Houston did not hesitate and reached a five-year deal worth roughly $80 million.

Harden showed why the Rockets splashed the cash in a season opening 103-96 win over Detroit, exploding for a big scoring night and having a uneven high to assists.

After playing a supporting role to Kevin Durant and Russell Westbrook to Oklahoma City's run to last season's NBA Finals, Harden is now the leading man in Houston.

"It's a new role for me. I think everybody knows that," Harden told reporters. "My job is just to do the best I can every day. I just have to be a leader on the floor."

Reuters

HARDEN

Carlos bags 3 MVP gold medals

MANILA Carlos enhanced her fine-looking badminton career by winning the Under-19 singles crown and teaming up with Jose in Mixedand to beat Paul Jhoeng and Eloise Bronzin for the U-19 mixed doubles phase in the MVP Sports Foundation-Philippine Badminton Banking System (PBBS) Makati leg at Makati Coliseum last Wednesday.

The twin victories completed Carlo's three-gold haul in the five-day event sponsored by the MVP Sports Foundation after the St. Paul College Pasig ace toppled Eilleen Goldea Hutalla Dandasan for Girls Cadet- in straight sets in the Open singles before the second straight time.

Carlos actually dropped the opening set to Annabel Sumalpe in the 6-10 finals but picked up her game to the next two schedules with a 9-21, 21-5, 21-8 victory in the event organized by the Philippine Badminton Association Secretary Mo President Jojomar Bitong chair Manny V. Pangilinan and secretary general Susy Allen Simbeon.

Castillo, meanwhile, took two-time titles with regular partner Ira Elaine Magno, beating Jessica Nolin and Jeyne Calimlim, 21-13, 13-21, 21-13, in the Open and Jessie Princess and Eleanor Infaro, 21-14, 21-11, in the U-19 category of the tournament supported by Victor PLDT, Inchcape, Gains Inc, multisport distributor of Victor equipment.

The U-19 and U-15 champions took P20,000 and P15,000 cash.

CARLOS

Sorry, UE Warriors tell Unigames hosts

By Cedrill P. Tupas

RAFERS they had to bend the rule but Ilog said concern, University of the East has apologized to organizers of the 17th Batdoges University Games in Bacolod City for the failure of the Red Warriors to show up for their men's basketball championship match against National University last Sunday.

The basketball tournament of the weeklong games proved to be one of the most competitive in years with UE bearing defending champion Ateneo and NU donning Adamson on a pair of highly contested semifinal matches.

But UE left for Manila and Taiwan almost immediately after its clash with Ateneo, leaving organizers to strip the Warriors even of their second place finish and instantly declare the Bulldogs champions.

In a letter to Unigames president Rope Barcenilla, UE executive director for marketing Dr. Anna T. Sanchezon Sr. and Department of Physical Education director Rodrigo Roque explained that the Red Warriors had to leave because of "prior engagements as they are representing the country in the Asian University Basketball Federation (AUBF) championship in Taiwan.

The UE officials said the school had no intention of disrespecting the Unigames, NU, the other participating teams and the Bacolod basketball fans for bolstering the championship game.

Interestingly, UE officials did not explain why they weren't able to anticipate that the schedules of the two tournaments would overlap.

The school remains hopeful that the Unigames will understand its case.

"We hope that the Bacolod would be given the honor and privilege of participating in future Unigames basketball tournaments for we shall always remain ardent aficionados and disciples of college basketball," added Escobarzon.

Perpetual sweeps NCAA South volley titles

UNIVERSITY of Perpetual Help Laguna proved too much for its opponents and retained the men's and women's volleyball championships of the 14th NCAA South at the Lyceum Philippines University-Batangas covered court in Batangas City last Monday.

Coached by former national mentor Odie Camagnian, the Junior were solid on both offense in defense in overpowering the LPU-Batangas Pirates in straight sets, 25-11, 25-18, 25-14, to sweep their best-of-3 title series.

Perpetual turned on the outstanding performances of Paul Boaz Mateo, Monty Sorio and John Javier in outclassing the hosts, who performed furiously with ace spiker Airen Jolan hobbled by an ankle injury.

"We lost our skipper with Solan' injury. We were never the same without him leading us," said LPU-Batangas coach Bob Malicsi, a former national teammate and good friend of Camagnian.

Not to be outdone, the Lady Saints unleashed twin towers Maria Mendilora and Elaine Mozon on First Asia Institute of Technology and Humanities and emerged victorious, 20-17, 24-26, 25-23, 25-10.

"We worked hard on our passing, receiving and blocking which were our weaknesses in the elimination rounds," said Camagnian, also Perpetual's athletic director, in crowning his squad to first fourth straight championship.

Rounding the two squads their respective LPU-Batangas vice president for international affairs and NCAA MAMSUDA chair Dr. Ivi Medina.

De La Salle-Lipa showed the spotlight after securing the girls' volleyball and the boys' basketball championships.

The La Salle-Lipa volleyballers swept its matches against University of Batangas, 28-26, 15-25, 25-16, 16-25, 15-8 and 25-17, 26-28, 25-20, to assure the crown while their boys' squad slipped past Perpetual Help 59-55 to tame 3-3 in the championship in the league.

Tagaytay Highlands leads WGAP Cup title seekers

FIVE teams which dominated this year's Champion Infinity WGAP Cup remained by Pampiros force each other again starting Nov. 9, this time in a Ryder Cup-style duel in the WGAP Cup at Splendido Golf and Country Club in Batangas.

Tagaytay Highlands, which held off Mahong's final leg charge at Sta. Elena to capture the overall championship in the 2012 WGAP Circuit, heads the elite field in the keenly awaited event organized by Monarch Golf Association of the Philippines and spread over three days at three of the country's top championship courses.

The Highlanders, headed by Class A players Jose Mari S. Perez and Lilibeth de Villa, are the defending WGAP Cup champions.

Hilarion, which finished third overall, Rose Hills and Sta. Elena complete the five-man cast in the match play event with the Sta. Elena boys, who seized up sixth in the regular season, taking the last spot after Nos. 4 Apostacles, which rolled the 2010 WGAP Cup, bagged off from competing.

Tagaytay leaned on ex Class B scorer's arm at Sta. Elena to dominate Mahong, amassing a 23-point aggregate after eight laps. The Mahong ladies scored seven points on the front leg but fell short by one with 16 points.

The second match will be held Nov. 14 at Summit Point in Batangas while Sherwood Hills will host the final leg on Nov. 20.

Under the rules, each team of four players per day will play a total of 12 matches in three different formats with

HIGHLANDS BACKERS Perla Jang (second from left), president of CATS Motors, Inc., took an agreement with Tagaytay Highlands Ladies Division vice-president Dianne Co making the country's exclusive distributor of Mercedes-Benz the Diamond sponsor of the seventh Highlands Ladies Cup set Nov. 14-16. Tagaytay Highlands Wide shares are (from left) THLC chair Rosalind Wee and treasurer Margie Tan.

the first leg at Splendido reserved to Classes B and C players vying in a four-ball format. The second leg at Summit Point will feature the Class A and B players in an aggregate format event, while Classes A and C players will slug it in the final event under the foursomes format.

Deadline for submission of entries is at 5 p.m., one day before the match.

POC, PSC chiefs PBC guests

PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr. and Philippine Sports Commission chair Richie Garcia have been invited guests of honors at the opening of the 4 1st Philippine Bowling Congress-PSC-PBC Open championships on Nov. 11 at SM Center Ilaya at Mall of Asia in Pasay City.

"We are happy and grateful to invite our top sports leaders in the kickoff ceremony of our salmon event," said PBC president Ernesto A. "Tito" Lejos.

Fifty prizes and trophies amounting in more than P1 million will be up for grabs in the tournament which will feature only Filipino bowlers.

"Unlike in the past, we have kept the foreigners out and limited the competition only to local bowlers in our bid to develop young athletes with great potentials," added Lejos.

Members of the national team led by 2008 world men's champion Biboy Rivera and a couple of invitationals in the 2012 14th Asian Youth Championships held in Egypt—Even Hernandez and Aasia Ee—will be among the participants in the tournament. The men's and ladies' Masters champions will get P120,000 and P100,000 respectively.

Texters stake clean slate vs Aces, Abueva

By Mooney R. Castillo

HOT how real is Gabby Abueva?

The sensational Alaska rookie used the Aces' newfound brilliance well to put to a rest today when they slug it out with surging defending champion Talk N Text in the PBA Philippine Cup elimination round at Smart Araneta Coliseum.

Jun Reyes games into his young pro career, the 6-foot-1 former San Sebastian ace has become the tournament's leading rebounder, with his incredible effort and energy leading the Aces to four straight victories thus far and back in the company of the pacesetters.

And at 7:30 p.m., Talk N Text, a squad known to shut down great players when needed, gets its fair taste of handling "the beast" as the surging Aces with the "Reaping Beasts" undefeated cast seeks his.

"Alaska is playing very well with the additions of Gabby Abueva," Tim Cone Black said after the Texters' sixth straight victory, unaided against an equally undefeated Air21 in Mabini City last Saturday. "He's a big boost to them."

Abueva became the first rookie to win Player of the Week honors from the PBA Press Corps this season after averaging 17.5 points and 10.5 rebounds in the Aces' last two victories.

Coach Luigi Trillo has labelled Abueva the game changer after his jointed rookie has averaged 14 points and 14 rebounds in his first two games.

Talk N Text is big and athletic and has more to first six games mainly because of defense. Black was the first to admit that his Texters are not yet as smooth offensively as he wants them to be.

"We are aware that we are as 6-0 but that's not our main concern," Black said after the victory over the Elasto Painters. "We have a long way to go and we have many things left to build on and play to."

Meanwhile, Purefoods Star seeks a second straight win under Olsen Racela and a third consecutive victory when it battles lowly Air21 in the 5:15 p.m. contest.

DARDA

SEAG prep starts January; PH eyes 4th

By Jun Navarro

EVENS at least a fourth place finish overall in the Southeast Asian Games in Myanmar next December, the Philippine Sports Commission will host a secretariat in January to address all concerns for the 27th staging of the Games.

There will be a total of 32 events in Seagames. The main thrust of the secretariat is to draw up the criteria for the selection of athletes.

The creation of the secretariat will formally jump-start the country's preparations for the Games as it aims to climb out of its worst-ever finish in the biennial meet.

In Jakarta and Palembang, Indonesia, almost a year ago, the Philippines went home with just 36 gold, 86 silver and 77 bronze medals—the worst-ever haul in its participation in what used to be known as the Southeast Asian Peninsular Games.

Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr. and PSC chair Richie Garcia are aiming to double the gold-medal output in Indonesia.

"The target is to finish fourth or third," said Garcia.

Former Games medalists summering at least 156 will get training stints here and abroad.

Will Nash finally win one?

ONE GAME AT A TIME

See Sarmenta

What fans have never had a better All-Stance Dog break.

The new season unfolded, and many have opted to avoid the Net. I stood, electing to troop to the concession this weekend and watch the NBA games to avoid.

Odds fall brown on this, because Net. I should be dedicated to those who have passed away and nothing else. And definitely not basketball.

But you can't blame the fans completely for there are a hundred and one stories to follow, especially those of the teams that completed blockbuster trades in the off season.

Say Allen's departure from Boston to Miami, Jason Terry's leap from Dallas to Boston and James Harden's move from Oklahoma to Houston were some of the stories that bugged sports headlines recently.

Hands-down, though, the most celebrated moves were neighborly—and completed—by the Los Angeles Lakers, who brought in All-Star center Dwight Howard and two-time MVP Steve Nash in the off season.

Fans are anticipating Buonanno's return to Los Angeles given that Nash can run every high-octane offense.

Nash has two quality big men in Howard and Paul Gasol and an all-around offensive threat named Kobe Bryant. Without question, this could be a potent brew if all the ingredients mesh correctly.

The Lakers' moves were very similar to the Miami Heat's own buildup two years ago, when LeBron James and Chris Bosh were recruited to join Dwyane Wade. It took two years before the Heat won it all but last season.

Los Angeles also had a similar recruitment in the summer ago, when Bryant and Shaquille O'Neal were joined by Gary Payton and Karl Malone. Although it looked like an unbeatable unit, the Lakers didn't win a title with that version of a Big Four.

Many Filipinos from one hopeful that Nash will finally win a title before the 38-year-old guard hangs up his sneakers. Hopefully, which is similar to the way we play the game. Nash has always been a great passer but can crank up shots from the pro interior if necessary.

It's not as if the Lakers will simply walk into the Oklahoma Thunder and other Western powerhouses with no new star. The Lakers system for this season will determine if Nash will finally win a crown.

Sadly, though, Nash and the Lakers have started 0-2, bowing to the mediocre Dallas Mavericks, 99-91, on Tuesday and to the Portland Trailblazers, 120-108, on Wednesday.

Despite his ago, Nash can still run the break and lead a different version of Showtime. The Lakers' ball court set should be a work in progress just as it was for the Heat, who had to get used to having three superstars playing at the same time.

But with Nash's abilities and with a solid plan, this could be the year that Nash finally becomes an NBA champion.

Bayron still 1 shot off ADT golf lead

MEL, Malaysia—Filipino Jay Bayron fired a one-under par 71 on Thursday to remain a shot behind Taiwan's Yuo Shu-hsien to lead the Asian Development Tour's PGM Eastwood Valley Malaysia at the Eastwood Valley Golf Club.

Bayron, a two-time Tour winner who is nursing third in the Order of Merit race, had three straight birdies from No. 13 but signed for two bogeys for a 1-38 aggregate leaving him the third round of the $900,000 event.

Yuo, a DL-year overseas in the tougher Asian Tour, had a double bogey marred 71 for 207 over to Malaysia's Safiuz Zeph fired a 67 to share third spot with Korean Park Jin-seong, who shot a 71, for 1-98.

"Putting is very important. The greens are very tricky and whoever puts the best will win," said Uso.

"I like to come from behind and win," said Bayron. "I struggled a lot with the putter today if I can get the putter going, I will have a chance of winning."

Mark Fernando was tied at 143 along with three others after firing a 73, while Dominic Ocampo was lurking another shot behind after a 72. Jerel Abella fired a 71 for 145. —Rizen Ever Sitoy

QCIM registration ongoing

REGISTRATION for the 4th Quezon City International Marathon can be done in full swing as organizers announced yesterday that 7,000-21 athletes and 200 Sports branches all over Metro Manila.

"We anticipate a bigger field of runners as we thank SMDC for opening its offices and Civic Sports Center as main registration centers," said Executive Runners Club Philippines Inc. (Toronto) chair and president Francisco Cayabyab Jr.

SMDC offices are at Old Megamall, North Edsa and Mall of Asia while Civic Sports Center are located at Old Manila Cubao Annex (Megamall, Mall of Asia, Manila and Cainta).

Also accepting registration are the Bureau of Fire at JP Rizal, Makati and in Mandaluyong, Quezon City, Marikina, Global City in Taguig, and Mall of Asia. Shop locations at Club 650 Libis, 2C and SBC Home Depot in Alabang, Muntinlupa.

Registration deadline is on Nov. 30.

Zambales sportsfest lures big field

COMPETITIVE and recreational athletes from different parts of the country are participating in the Zambales Multi Sports Festival set Nov. 9 to 11.

Among those already registered for the 500 kapalit ng pera and prize events scheduled for 16 are dragon boat teams, adventure racers, bikers, open sea swimmers, triathletes and even a sex dating champion.

"We have confirmed entries from Cagayan de Oro, Bohol, Palawan, Camarines Norte, Calapan and several from Metro Manila," said event organizer Bob Cerna.

As of the Philippine Kayaking Association, the lead organizer together with the Zambales provincial government headed by Gov. Hermogenes Ebdane.

For inquiries, call 4665591 and 8915-3753225 or visit kayakphil@yahoo.com.

CHAMPS AGAIN Ateneo Lady Eagles, including Alyssa Valdez (second from left), Rachel Ann Daquis (second from right) and Jia Morado (right), pose with their trophy after winning the UAAP women's volleyball tournament in 2011. Valdez and Daquis are now playing for the Philippine team in the London Olympics. —Photo by Jay Ganzon

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Smart Choice ₱89
Smart Choice ₱45

Durian ₱149
Watermelon ₱45
Fuji Apple ₱17
Ginger ₱25
Pechay ₱25
Dried Lanog ₱200
Pork Rib Steak ₱129
Pork Kilo ₱99
Chicken Thigh ₱129
Chicken Breast Fillet ₱139
Honestyle Adobo Sarap ₱80
Sarangani Baby Back Marinated Barbecue ₱259

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 6857, Series of 2012.

Aplus METRO
Editor Joseph Voltaire L. Contreras

DID YOU KNOW

THE 64-HECTARE Manila North Cemetery—which is considered one of the biggest cemeteries in Metro Manila, serves as the final resting place for key figures in Philippine history, including former Presidents Sergio Osmeña, Ramon Magsaysay and Manuel Roxas, historian Epifanio de los Santos and actor Fernando Poe Jr. It is located next to two other cemeteries—La Loma Cemetery and Manila Chinese Cemetery.
Estrati Gocotano, Inquirer Research

Group on a mission targets cemeteries

By Erika Sauler and Rima Jocsanim M. Grandi

ON ALL Saints' Day, some people go to the cemeteries to honor and remember their departed loved ones. Others are there for a different reason altogether.

Around 200 residents of Marikina City who were victims of Tropical Storm "Ondoy" in 2009 turned around the Marikina Manila North Cemetery yesterday to gather up the recyclable trash left behind by visitors.

The "scavengers" were volunteers for a charity organization which plans to sell the garbage to raise money for its medical care and educational assistance program for the poor.

Tzu Chi Foundation, a Buddhist organization that originated in Taiwan, helped the Marikina residents rise from the devastation wrought by Ondoy in greenhills, some of them become volunteers for its garbage recycling program.

"Avoid trash, avoid floods," volunteer Jennifer Magbanua said, echoing the group's mantra.

The daughter of another volunteer, Jennifer Villeza, is now in Fourth year college through a scholarship provided by Tzu Chi.

The group also deployed its volunteers yesterday to Manila South Cemetery, Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina and Parañaque, Chinese Cemetery, Heaven Memorial Park in San Mateo, Rizal, and Carmona Cemetery in Cavite province to collect more trash.

Coordinator Angie Villanueva said the garbage would be brought to a Tzu Chi center in Sta. Mesa, Manila, where it would be sorted to determine which could be recycled or sold. The money from the sales will go to the foundation's eye clinic which provides free operations for those suffering from cataracts, glaucoma and other eye problems.

She said that when they started the program last year in Manila North Cemetery, the volunteers gathered at least five truckloads of trash.

A report by the Manila City Department of Public Services said that up to 20 truckloads of garbage are hauled from Manila North Cemetery and Manila South Cemetery during the observance of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day.

Scouring the volunteers were wearing shirts made from recyclable bottles. Coordinator Ralene Chua said that 12 1.5-liter PET bottles can be turned into shirts while 40 bottles can become blankets which the group donates to disaster victims.

"We tell them that these blankets are not just imported, these are made from other people's bottles since these are made from donated bottles," Chua said.

The technology to turn the PET bottles into thread is currently available only in Taiwan, Chua added.

Tzu Chi sells the collected garbage here and in a month, the group can raise up to P1.5 million, she said.

Chua explained that the foundation's environmental advocacy intensified after the tragedy brought by Ondoy.

Tzu Chi initially provided relief goods to the victims but afterward, it introduced the cash-for-work community cleanup program in Marikina residents.

At the Libingan ng mga Bayani, college students were also on a fund-raising mission—sell "good luck" to revelers so that they would have enough money for their tuition and offer "spiritual elevation" to the departed.

Mary Ann Villano, Jeremy Precia and 13 other students of International Peace Leadership College in Taytay Rizal approached relatives of war veterans and military men to offer the luminaries worth P180.

"It may be expensive but it's

A MAN pays his respects to a departed relative at Barangka public cemetery in Marikina City in the dead of night while a woman visits her loved one's tomb at Manila South Cemetery in Makati City at the crack of dawn.

2 women living proof that true love, even in the face of death, is eternal

By Rima Jocsanim M. Grandi

EVEN death can't part them asunder from the love of their lives.

Rose Vallejo, 83, and Adler Inumerables, 77, are living proof that true love endures and can go beyond the grave.

The Inumerables discovered upon the two memory who were supposedly entering the tombs of their husbands, both military officers, at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

Vallejo would always remember her husband, Gen. Benjamin Vallejo, as the soldier who wrote her a haunted poems that always began with the line, "Eva Rose."

Poetry and love letters are the ingredients to a lasting marriage," said Vallejo, a former dean of the University of the Philippines (UP) School of Library and Information.

She added that her husband would write poems as he waited for her or whenever he was away. Upon his death on All Saints' Day in 1993 due to a cerebral stroke, she gathered all his poems and love letters and placed them inside a box which she now guards closely.

When she went to Australia to take her master's degree, she told her sister: "If something happens, you can know everything but mine first."

Strikingly enough, the couple met during high school at UP through a janitor. The two, however, vowed not to get married until they finished college.

But just a month after their wedding, her husband was assigned to fight in the Korean War while Vallejo had to leave for the United States to start her doctoral studies at the University of Michigan.

When her husband returned to the Philippines, she stopped her studies and came home to be with him.

The couple were later blessed with four children.

"Love is unfathomable," Vallejo said. "We had chemistry."

For Inumerables, it is the simple things that her late husband, Gen. Feliciano Inumerables, did for her when he was still alive that has made her love for him endure.

"He always brought me something after every assignment," she said. "Things as simple as candy or a rose."

There was a time when his husband could not find any flower so he gave her a plastic bloom instead, she recalled.

"He's from Visayas so he was really aware," said Inumerables, who used to be a Red Cross regional director.

At the libingan ng mga Bayani, college students were also on a fund-raising mission—sell "good luck" to revelers so that they would have enough money for their tuition and offer "spiritual elevation" to the departed.

Mary Ann Villano, Jeremy Precia and 13 other students of International Peace Leadership College in Taytay Rizal approached relatives of war veterans and military men to offer the luminaries worth P180.

"It may be expensive but it's

With her husband's death in May 2012, just four more years before they would have celebrated their golden wedding anniversary, she is now venerating the letter by bringing him white flowers every time she visits his grave.

"He liked white flowers," she said as she recalled a time when he told her: "Morning the flowers smell good."

"When should always make the most of their time with their husbands," she said.

Famous stars still draw crowds even in death

By Erika Sauler and Jeannerez I. Andrade

"LET'S go to FPJ's tomb. There might be actors there," a boy was overheard telling his companions yesterday, referring to the resting place of action star Fernando Poe Jr., one of the most prominent people buried in the Manila South Cemetery.

Unfortunately for them, however, there were no stars there although this did not stop them and many others from gawking at FPJ's tomb. Some fans even had their picture taken with the Poe remembrance as the background.

Students and bystanders said the late actor's daughters, actress Lovi Poe and Grace Poe-Llamanzares who is running for senator next year, were spotted earlier in the day along with comedian Ogie Alcasid.

Another senatorial candidate, Jun Magsaysay was seen visiting the tomb of his father, former President Ramon Magsaysay. Well-wishers at the airport cut-out stands for hand and had their photos taken with him.

"My father came here for the 50 years since I was 19. But on commemoration is a private family affair," Magsaysay told the reporters.

At the Heritage Park in Taguig City, people flocked big wishes as they posed next to comedy king Redolfo "Dolphy" Quinzon's tomb.

Annie Serna, who was visiting her father's grave which was nearby, took the opportunity to have her picture taken with the tomb of the icon "she grew up with."

"My father was a big fan of Dolphy," Serna said. "My father's Chinese and it's rare for Chinese people to understand Filipino humor."

Serna recounted that when she was younger, she used to watch movies of Dolphy with her father.

"Darna is my favorite. This was really funny," she added.

Serna said she felt sad when she heard of Dolphy's death. "I felt like I lost a father," she added.

All Saints' Day however, isn't just for the famous. In the middle of the fascinating Municipal Cemetery in Marikina City four chocolate-flavored cupcakes with candy sprinkles on a plate were placed on top of an otherwise inconspicuous apartment-style tomb which sat on top of a hill.

The treats were beside a pot of flowers which bore the name of Noelle Allison Quimado who was born on and died on May 2, 2007. Her final resting place is one of several niches reserved for still-born babies situated in that section of the public graveyard.

Ronald Hosea Jr., only lived for one day in June 2005 but he was remembered by his parents and siblings. His younger sister, now 10 years old, cheerfully exclaimed, "Hi Kuya," as she placed some flowers on the grave.

"She is still part of the family. We visit him every year. We will never forget him," his father told the reporters. With Jimuel Jose, Antonio M. Gerardo

SPOOKS ON THE RUN
Participants dressed in Halloween costumes warm up for the Midnight Run held on White Plains Avenue in Quezon City by dancing to Korean sensation Psy's "Gangnam Style."
MARTIN SILVERIO

Group on a mission targets cemeteries

Front page 1 | 11

for a good cause. We will use the money for our mission this coming tomorrow," Hilario, a freshmen of Secondary Information student, told them.

They have been in the cemetery since 11 p.m. on Oct. 31. "It's a 24-hour activity. We will stop at exactly 11 p.m. today (Monday)," she added.

Pereña, 17, said: "From time to time, we run for five minutes but we haven't slept yet."

But the freshmen student said he doesn't feel tired because of "spirit and cooperation."

The "heroes" hunted in this cemetery are helping them, he said and added that they chose Libingan ng mga Bayani because it is the final resting place of people who "voluntarily" fought and served the country.

"The ancestors guide us in finding their relatives so they can help us with our needs," Pereña said.

The "fund-raising" activity is called "ulusuk" or ancestor's liberation.

"We believe in the spirit world," he said. "By helping us, their ancestors will be liberated to a higher spiritual level."

Pereña's tuition for the second semester is P10,000. He is the youngest of two children. His mother is a seamstress while his father is out of work.

With Melvin Gascon

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Conflicting claims haunt old house

By Erika Sauler

A HOUSE in Binondo, Manila, believed to be the birthplace of revolutionary hero Gen. Antonio Luna is in a sad state.

With its dilapidated iron roof slowly being eaten away by rust and its capiz windows missing a few panels, the now-empty two-story structure used to serve as a storage area for evangelism Christ Bread members and old furniture.

In the hopes of saving the house preserved and restored, the Manila City government has urged the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) to buy the historic landmark on Urbiztondo Street.

Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim made the appeal during a wreath-laying ceremony held last week in front of the old house to commemorate Luna's 146th birth anniversary.

Born in Binondo, Manila, on Oct. 29, 1866, Luna was the brother of painter Juan Luna. He commanded the periodical organ of the revolution, La Independencia.

According to NHCP former Luna was the greatest Filipino strategist during the Filipino-American War. He was assassinated on June 5, 1899, in Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija.

The Chinese Insularian who owns the house has told the historian that he was willing to sell it for P100 million although he was doubtful about its supposed background.

Lawrence Tan, 66, said his family has been trying to negotiate the sale of the house to the government but they were told that there were no funds available.

He went on to say that the historical marker put up by the NHCP in 1965 was first installed at a nearby house—that of his mother-in-law—but she disapproved of it as the NHCP record is in its current location.

"Do you think this is a house from 1866?" Tan said as he gestured toward the structure's facade.

"We used to live in that house. As kids, we would play and run around inside. My father's house is on Luna's house until the NHCP put up the marker," Tan said. He now lives in the house next door.

He pointed to the information on the marker which states that Luna's home is at 892 Urbiztondo St. The house's address, however, is 407 Urbiztondo St. According to Tan, 843 Urbiztondo St. is situated at what is now known as the City Plaza condominium.

The historian called up NHCP Executive Director Ludovico Badoy for comment but was told that he was in a closed-door meeting.

THE MARKER installed in the government on the house in Urbiztondo Street in Binondo, Manila.

IS THIS house which used to serve as a storage area for noodles and furniture General Antonio Luna's birthplace? The National Historical Commission of the Philippines says it is but its owner says otherwise.

Professionals leave China in record numbers

By Ian Johnson

BEIJING—At 38, Chen Kao had what many Chinese dream of: her own apartment and a well-paying job at a multinational corporation. But in mid-October, Chen boarded a midnight flight to Australia to begin a new life with no more prospects.

Like hundreds of thousands of Chinese who leave each year, she was driven by an overriding sense that she could do better outside China. Despite China's tremendous economic success in recent years, she was lured by Australia's healthier environment, robust social services and the freedom to start a family in a country that guarantees religious freedoms.

"It's very stressful in China—sometimes I was working 150 hours a week for my multinational company," Chen said in her beijing apartment, her bags packed before leaving. "And it will be easier raising my children in Christmas abroad. It is more free in Australia."

As China's Communist Party prepares a momentous leadership change in early November, it is losing skilled professionals like Chen in record numbers. In 2010, the last year for which complete statistics are available, 908,000 Chinese left for the 34 developed countries that make up the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, a rise of 45 percent increase over 2000.

Individual countries report that the trend continuing. In 2011, the United States received 87,000 permanent residents from China, up from 74,000 the year before. Chinese immigrants are driving real estate booms in places as varied as New York City, where some enterprising agents are learning Mandarin, to the Mediterranean island of Cyprus, which offers a route to a European Union passport.

Few emigrants from China cite politics, but it underlies many of their concerns. They talk about a development-at-all-costs strategy that has ruined the environment, as well as a deteriorating social and moral fabric that makes China feel like a colder place than when they were growing up. Overall, there is a sense that despite all the gains in recent decades, China's political and social trajectory is still highly uncertain.

"People who are middle class in China don't feel secure because factors and especially because the government's money," said Cao Cong, an associate professor at the University of Nottingham who has studied Chinese migration. "They don't think the political situation is stable."

Most migrants seem to see a foreign passport as insurance against the worst-case scenario rather than as a complete abandonment of China.

A manager based in Shanghai at an engineering company, who asked not to be named, said he invested earlier this year in a New York City real estate project in hopes of eventually securing a green card. A sharp-tongued blogger on current events as well, he said he had been treated by local public security officials, fastening his desire for a US passport.

"A green card is a sterling at all times," the manager said. "Chinese have not made real progress on China's ills since the days of Mao Zedong, so I don't know what's going to happen next. I want to see how things turn out here over the next few years."

Political turmoil has reinforced this feeling. Since early this year, the country has been shocked by revelations that Bo Xilai, one of the Communist Party's most senior leaders, was a fall that by official accounts engaged in murder, torture and corruption.

"There continues to be a lot of uncertainty and risk, even at the highest level—even at this Bo Xilai level," said Liang Zai, a migration expert at Jiao Tong University in Xi'an. "People wonder what's going to happen next, three years down the road."

The sense of uncertainty affects parents' choices, too. According to the Chinese Ministry of Commerce, 400,000 Chinese were studying abroad at the end of last year, versus 60,000 in 1990. Many are in small-scale businesses—cast driving, fishing or farming—and worried that their chicks will missed out on China's 21st century boom. Even though hundreds of millions of Chinese have been lifted from poverty during this period, the rich-poor gap in China is among the world's widest, and the economy is increasingly dominated by large corporations, many of them state-run.

"It's driven by a fear of losing out in China," said Hao Xiang, a demographer at Oxford University. "Going abroad has become a kind of gambling that may bring you some opportunities."

Years of prosperity mean that millions of people have the means to emigrate legally, either through investment programs or by sending an offspring abroad to study in hopes of securing a long-term foothold. *New York Times News Service*

CHINESE young people at an Internet cafe in Taiyuan, Shanxi province. The factories that have powered China's economic miracle are reeling from the global slowdown, presenting the incoming leadership in Beijing with a restless workforce at a defining moment in the country's growth story. REUTERS

China's 2nd stealth fighter makes 1st flight

BEIJING—China's second stealth fighter has made its first test flight, state media reported Thursday, in a boost to the country's air capabilities even though the plane is unlikely to be deployed for years.

The J-31, the second stealth plane to be unveiled by China in less than two years, flew for 11 minutes on Wednesday morning, the state-run Global Times reported, citing an eyewitness.

Photos posted to the Internet Thursday showed the radar-avoiding aircraft airborne near the northeastern city of Shenyang with its landing gear still down.

Ross Babbage of Australia's Kokoda Foundation and Greg Waldron of Flightglobal magazine in Singapore said the plane known as the J-31 appeared to be a smaller version of the J-20 prototype that was tested last year in the southwestern city of Chengdu.

While both planes feature stealth design features, their true capabilities in terms of sensors, radar-absorbing coatings, and other key factors remain unknown. It isn't known when, or if, either plane will go into production.

The technical barriers and development costs for military aircraft are enormous and the United States has struggled for years to deliver on their promise.

Another major challenge for China is developing engines for its fighters that are reliable and capable enough for far such cutting-edge aircraft, Babbage said. China remains overwhelmingly reliant on Russia for engines for its latest J-10, J-11, and J-15 models, the last two of which were developed from Russian-Soviet Fighter Jet engines.

China's first stealth fighter, the J-20, was unveiled in early 2011 but is not expected to enter service until 2018. The country's first aircraft carrier entered service last month, with others capable of carrying aircraft expected in future.

The J-31 appears to be more mobile than the J-20, with its landing gear suggesting it to be designed to be launched from an aircraft carrier, military expert Andrei Chang said.

He said the J-31 appeared similar in the latest "Block" generation of US-designed stealth fighters, but with a few years. Full engine and a lower proportion of sophisticated radar-absorbing composite materials.

"In terms of design it appears the J-31 is inferior to the latest US planes," said Chang, head of the Kanwa Information Center which monitors China's military. "The latest is stealing, but the material and quality are inferior."

"I think the engine is trying to to show off to their colleagues that the 10 Jiuao engine achieved a lot for China," he said, adding that the J-10's manufacturers hoped to export the plane to Chinese allies such as Pakistan.

China says its defense spending will top $106 billion in 2013, the latest in a series of budget increases in the country's 2.3 million-strong military.

Decades of increased investment now the country full power to twice the world's largest importer of arms in 2007 to the fourth largest by 2011, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute said.

Arms exports rose 40 percent in the same period. *AFP-JIJI*

US legalization cuts cartel profits, says Mexico think-tank

MEXICO CITY—A study released on Wednesday by a respected Mexican think tank asserts that proposals to legalize the recreational use of marijuana in Colorado, Oregon and Washington would cut Mexican drug cartels' earnings from traffic to the United States by as much as 30 percent.

The study, produced by the Institute of the world's assumptions, saying the proposals could also offer new opportunities for cartels to operate inside the US and replace any profit lost to a drop in international smuggling.

The institute estimates that the decided on June 6 would allow adults to possess small amounts of pot under a regimen of state regulation and taxation. Polls have shown eight states in Washington and Colorado, with Washington's measure appearing to have the best chance of passing. Oregon's measure, which would impose the lowest regulations, does not appear likely to pass.

The study by the Mexican Competitiveness Institute, "If Our Neighbors Legalize," assumes that legalization in any state would allow growers there to produce marijuana relatively cheaply and create an illicit flow to other states, where the drug could be made available at cheaper prices and higher quality than Mexican marijuana smuggled across the international border.

The study also assumed an increase in the world's consumption, saying the proposals could also offer new opportunities for cartels to operate inside the US and replace any profit lost to a drop in international smuggling.

It calculates the hypothetical, paradigmatization price of marijuana produced in Oregon, Washington and Colorado and sold within those states and smuggled to other states. It then assumes that purchasers around the US will choose domestic marijuana rather it to sold cheaper than the current price of Mexican marijuana. That choice will lead to a loss of $1.425 billion to the cartels if Colorado legalizes, $1.370 billion if Washington approves the ballot measure, and $1.830 billion if Oregon votes yes, the study says. *AFP*

Russians see church and state come closer

MOSCOW—As the Russian Orthodox Church continues to assert as a political force, Archimandrite Tikhon Shevkunov stands at the center of a swirling argument about the church's power and its possible influence on President Vladimir V. Putin.

Father Tikhon, a former film student, presides over the 11th century Sretensky Monastery here, near the headquarters of the former KGB, for which Putin worked in Soviet times. A media savvy figure, Tikhon has written a surprise best seller about monastic life and has been described as "Putin's spiritual father"—a label he coyly neither confirms nor denies.

"It would be cruel of me to answer this question, to say yes or no and take away the bread of journalists," he said recently in an interview in his working room, adorned with portraits of a saint and a true Archangel, of course, one doesn't answer such a question like a minister." But he added: "Although, of course, one doesn't answer such a question like a minister."

This week, Tikhon was in the news again after reports—swiftly denied—that the police had shut down a brothel on the grounds of his monastery. He branded the story "unconscionable slander" and "a vivid example of the information war against the church." The truth, he told the ITAR-Tass news agency, was that a brothel had been operating in a building next to, closer grounds, and that his monastery had demanded it be shut down.

Tikhon, 54, took over at the white-walled monastery one of Russia's oldest, in 1995. He has since transformed the structure, which served as a killing ground in Stalin's times, into a cinematically perfect vision of Orthodoxy, rivaling to the Chinese Ministry of Commerce, 400,000 Chinese were studying abroad at the end of last year, versus 60,000 in 1990. Many are in small-scale businesses—cast driving, fishing or farming—and worried that their chicks will missed out on China's 21st century boom. Even though hundreds of millions of Chinese have been lifted from poverty during this period, the rich-poor gap in China is among the world's widest, and the economy is increasingly dominated by large corporations, many of them state-run.

PUTIN AFP

On a recent idyllic fall evening, his black monastic robes billowed in the wind as a choral music wafted through the air and a crush of buttoned women lingered to hit blessing.

Some critics believe Tikhon as a politician himself. And others, who see him as a rising power broker, call him a promoter of a rigid Orthodox fundamentalism. "Putin is a charge he dismissed as "nonsense."

The old debate over the role of the Orthodox Church and its relationship in the state broke into the open most recently over the conviction of members of the punk collective Pussy Riot for staging an anti-Putin prank at Moscow's biggest cathedral. The performance, which was recorded on a video that circulated widely on the Internet, mocked both Putin and Patriarch Kirill I, the head of the Orthodox Church.

In this atmosphere, Tikhon's ties to Putin have come under scrutiny. He had already attracted attention in 2008, for writing and narrating a television documentary about Faithful Fighter Academy.

Tikhon's film recalls fighters, the J-20, was unveiled in early 2011 but is not expected to enter service until 2018. The country's first aircraft carrier entered service last month, with others capable of carrying aircraft expected in future.

The J-31 appears to be more mobile than the J-20, with its landing gear suggesting it to be designed to be launched from an aircraft carrier, military expert Andrei Chang said.

He said the J-31 appeared similar to the latest "Block" generation of US-designed stealth fighters, but with a few years. Full engine and a lower proportion of sophisticated radar-absorbing composite materials.

"In terms of design it appears the J-31 is inferior to the latest US planes," said Chang, head of the Kanwa Information Center which monitors China's military. "The latest is stealing, but the material and quality are inferior."

"I think the engine is trying to to show off to their colleagues that the 10 Jiuao engine achieved a lot for China," he said, adding that the J-10's manufacturers hoped to export the plane to Chinese allies such as Pakistan.

China says its defense spending will top $106 billion in 2013, the latest in a series of budget increases in the country's 2.3 million-strong military.

Decades of increased investment now the country full power to twice the world's largest importer of arms in 2007 to the fourth largest by 2011, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute said.

Arms exports rose 40 percent in the same period. *AFP-JIJI*

'Ex-gay' men dispute view that homosexuality is forever

By Erik Eckholm

LOS ANGELES—For most of his life, Blaine Smith said, "every inch of my body craved male sexual attention."

Smith, 58, who says he believes homosexual behavior is wrong on religious grounds, tried to tough it out. He spent 17 years in a devoted marriage while battling his urges all day, he said, and sometimes acting on them at night.

But in recent years, as he pushed his childhood in counseling and at church weekend retreats with names like People Can Change and Journey Into Manhood, "my homosexual feelings have nearly vanished," Smith said in an interview at the house in Bakersfield he shares with his second wife, who married him eight years ago knowing his history. "In my 50s, for the first time, I can look at a woman and say 'she's really hot.'"

Smith is one of thousands of men across the country, often known as "ex-gay," who believe they have changed their sexual social desires through some combination of therapy and prayer—something most scientists say has never been proved possible and is likely an illusion.

Ex-gay men are often closeted, fearing ridicule from gay advocates who imitate them of self-deception and, at the same time, fearing rejection by their church communities as tainted infidels. Here in California, their sense of siege grew more intense in September when Gov. Jerry Brown signed a law banning use of widely discredited sexual "conversion therapies" for minors—an assault on their own validity, some ex-gay men feel.

Exgay the measure, Brown opposed the view of the psychiatric establishment and many gay groups, saying, "This bill bans unscientific 'therapies' that have driven young people to depression and suicide," adding that the practices "will now be relegated to the dustbin of quackery."

But many ex-gays have continued to seek help from such therapists and men's retreats, saying their own experience is proof enough that the treatments can work.

Anne Hilton, 35, was so angered by the California ban, which will take effect Jan. 1, that he has gone public and become a plaintiff in a lawsuit challenging the law as unconstitutional.

In those who call the therapy dangerous, Hilton reverses the argument. "If I'd known about those therapies as a teen I could have avoided a lot of depression, self-hatred and suicidal thoughts," he said in his quiet manner in Los Angeles. He was interested as a Christian teenager by his homosexual attractions but was, after men's retreats and an online course of reparative therapy, he says he feels glimmers of attraction for women and is thinking about dating.

"I found that I couldn't just say 'I'm gay' and live that way," said Hilton, who plans to work as a motivational speaker and become a therapist himself.

Many ex-gays guard their secret but quietly meet in support groups around the country, sharing ideas on how to avoid temptations. Some are trying to save heterosexual marriages. Some choose celibacy as an improvement over what they regard as a sinful gay life.

Whether they have gone through formal reparative therapy, most ex-gays agree with its tenets, even as they are rejected by mainstream scientists. The theories, which have also been adopted by conservative religious opponents of gay marriage, hold that male homosexuality is rooted in failed relationships with a father figure and an overbearing mother—or from early sexual abuse. Confronting those psychic wounds, they assert, can bring change in sexual desire, if not necessarily a total "cure." *NYTNS*

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Greco

Storm allows Obama to show that he's a president in charge

Romney subdued; Obama clings to narrow lead

ATLANTIC CITY, NEW JERSEY—In a close and bitterly fought campaign for president, it was a day of contrasts: President Barack Obama joined New Jersey's Republican governor to tour storm-ravaged areas, while election rival Mitt Romney was relegated to a subdued day of rallies in Florida.

OBAMA (2nd, right) speaks in a neighborhood after he tours damage done by Hurricane Sandy in Brigantine, New Jersey, on Oct. 31, 2012. New Jersey Governor Chris Christie stands behind Obama. REUTERS

The dramatic overnight by massive storm surely allowed Obama to project an image of a president in charge at a time of crisis. That vs polls six days before the election, he is fighting to gain enough new Republican Romney whose recent momentum may be slowing.

The Democrat took a helicopter tour of the damage in New Jersey with Governor Chris Christie, a high-profile Romney supporter who has nevertheless praised Obama lavishly for the two days for expediting federal rescue relief.

With Christie at his side, Obama promised quick federal aid.

"We're not going to valorize red tape, we're not going to tolerate bureaucracy," he said.

In unusually warm remarks, Christie again hailed Obama.

"It's really important to have the president of the United States acknowledge all the suffering that's going on here in New Jersey and I appreciate it very much," he said, later thanking the president for his "compassion."

His comments were all the more remarkable given Christie, normally a hard-nosed partisan, was the keynote speaker at the Republican convention in August and has often accompanied Romney at rallies.

Obama clung to a slender lead in most of the swing states that will decide who captures the 270 electoral votes needed to win.

He scrapped three days of campaign events this week to deal with the storm, a move that may in fact improve his standing with voters. A Washington Post/ABC News poll found eight in 10 voters gave Obama an "excellent" or "good" rating for his handling of the emergency.

Romney senior adviser Kevin Madden, asked by reporters whether he agreed with Christie that Obama was doing a good job handling the hurricane response, said: "I believe the response is still going on so I'm not in a position to qualify the response by the federal government. I believe it's still ongoing."

Following the swing state of Florida, Romney had to cross those six states by a second consecutive day in order to avoid appearing too political after the storm that crippled transportation, knocked out power for millions and killed 64 people on the east coast.

Rather than blasting Obama for what he typically calls failures to come to the economy, Romney did not mention his death's name, instead saying a change in course is needed and that he would bring Americans together if elected.

"Look, we can't go on the road we're on, we can't change course in America if we keep on smashing each other. We have got to come together," he said in Coral Gables.

Sandy forced the presidential race into a deep freeze, just as Romney was gathering steam in the last leg toward the Nov. 6 Romney.

Both campaigns will be back in full swing on Thursday when Romney travels to Virginia and Obama begins a two-day trip to Colorado, Ohio and Nevada.

A Reuters/Ipsos national online tracking survey, the most robust similar poll, found the race effectively tied, with Obama on 47 percent to 46 percent for Romney.

The deals were also neck and neck in four of the most hotly contested states, but Obama holds a slight advantage in two of them. The online Reuters/Ipsos poll showed Obama leading by 3 percentage points in Ohio and 2 points in Virginia. The two are dead even in Florida, and Romney leads by 1 percentage point in Colorado.

Another poll, by Quinnipiac/New York Times/CBS News, showed Obama with slight leads within the margin of error in Virginia and Florida, and a 5-point edge over Romney in the vital battleground of Ohio.

A Romney loss in Ohio would make his electoral math very difficult, and his campaign has aired new ads in recent days in Democratic-leaning Minnesota, Pennsylvania and Michigan in an effort to put those states in play.

Recent polls have shown all three states tightening in what the Romney camp called a sign of momentum. The Obama campaign said the move to expand the electoral map was a sign of desperation but launched its own ads in those states to counter Romney.

"There is a growing recognition on the other side that Ohio is fading to them. That is the battleground state where they can be comfortable," said Obama senior adviser David Axelrod. "They are looking for opportunities." Romney aides noted that Obama's levels of support still did not reach 50 percent in most swing states, a bad sign for an incumbent, and said that Romney had opened up leads with independent voters who will make the difference. Reuters

US election to cost $6B

WASHINGTON—United States political campaigns will spend $6 billion in federal races this year, making the 2012 general election the most expensive poll in American history, experts said on Wednesday.

The presidential election pitting President Barack Obama against Republican challenger Mitt Romney alone accounts for $2.6 billion, according to the Center for Responsive Politics, which analyzes US electoral expenses at opensecrets.org.

That's a decrease from the record-breaking 2008 campaign total of $2.8 billion, when Obama had to also finance a Democratic primary fight against Hillary Clinton.

The total includes spending by presidential candidates and major party committees—about $1 billion—$528 million from outside groups that report spending to federal authorities and $342 million from party conventions host committees and public funding for the national conventions.

Overall, the 2012 election is set to top the last most expensive election—four years ago—by about $700 million, due in large part to an unprecedented amount of money of over $1 billion raised and spent by outside groups following a divisive 2010 Supreme Court decision.

"In the new campaign finance landscape post-Citizens United, we're seeing historic spending levels spurred by outside groups dominated by a small number of individuals and organizations making exceptional contributions," said Center for Responsive Politics executive director Sheila Krumholz.

The court ruling allowed these groups to raise unlimited amounts of money from donors, and the organizations have been spending at a rapidly increasing rate.

Spending by such groups for and against Obama and Romney has jumped from $59 million per week in early September to $93 million per week in early October to $70 million during the week beginning October 21.

Conservative organizations—including non-profit groups and so-called Super PACs—dominate their liberal counterparts. AFP

Sri Lanka turns on former friends

FONSEKA

COLOMBO—Three years after the armed forces crushed their Tamil Tiger enemies, Sri Lanka's government is turning on former allies, with the head of the Supreme Court the latest to fall from grace.

Dismissed last week by Chief Justice Shirani Bandaranayake, who ended up behind bars after trying to run against President Mahinda Rajapakse in 2010, the ruling party has submitted a motion to impeach Chief Justice Shirani Bandaranayake, government and parliamentary officials announced on Thursday.

The move comes weeks after senior journalist Frederica Jansz, a prominent witness against Fonseka, was sacked as editor of the Sunday Leader newspaper. Jansz, who is now trying to get asylum abroad, said she was removed for receiving demands by its owner-current to smear relations of Rajapakse and his family.

The government's opponents say no one should be surprised that the regime's former friends are now regarded as its enemies.

"The government is still out to suppress anyone who's seen to stand up against the executive," opposition lawmaker Sumeth Perumbandarawala told AFP.

Bandaranayake, a 54-year-old former professor of law, had been hand-picked for the top judicial job by Rajapakse's government two years ago. Her husband was also appointed to politically sensitive posts in state financial institutions.

But the relationship is now in tatters, with Chandima Weerakkody, the deputy speaker of parliament, telling reporters on Thursday that "government ministers MPs have handed over a motion calling for the impeachment of the chief justice." While Weerakkody did not give details of the motion, one of Rajapakse's ministers told a press conference there had been "disagreements". Between the government and chief justice over a specific issue.

"The government group [is] forced that the judiciary is overstepping... its authority," said information Minister Keheliya Rambukwella.

A sign that the chief justice's days were numbered came last week when Foreign Minister G. L. Peiris told MPs that Bandaranayake had "violated the constitution" by appointing a junior judge on bond up a judicial watchdog.

The government's subpoena of her also filed a corruption complaint against Bandaranayake's husband, Pradeep Kariyawasam, who resigned recently as head of state-owned Sampath Bank after a controversial share purchase deal.

Analysts say the real reason behind the impeachment move is Bandaranayake's decision to shoot down a bill that sought to remove powers from Tamil leaders in the economic development ministry, headed by Rajapakse's younger brother Basil.

Victor Ivan, author of a book on the relationship between the Sri Lankan government and judiciary said it was a classic case of "friends turning foes after courts started asserting their authority in recent months. AFP

Japan 'misspent' tsunami money, audit shows

TOKYO—Cash earmarked for tsunami reconstruction work was diverted to unrelated projects, a Japanese government audit showed as residents of the devastated northeast coast frustration over the slow pace of rebuilding.

Parts of the 14.9 trillion yen ($147 billion) were used to fund an array of unconnected works, including road-building on the northern island of Okinawa and handouts to help firms not based in the disaster zone, press reports have said.

They also included 6 billion yen for the purchase of rare earths, key components for high-tech products such as electric cars and smartphones, and 4.2 billion yen used to send disaster prevention equipment to Southeast Asian countries.

The March 2011 earthquake triggered tsunami killed nearly 19,000 people in Japan's worst peace-time disaster, which also left a struggling with a nuclear emergency at Fukushima.

Nearly 20 months on more than 300,000 people are still living in temporary homes, as their business they have been unable to rebuild after the tsunami or because radiation levels around the nuclear plant mean it is unsafe to return.

Politicians from the devastated northeast repeatedly express frustration at the slow pace of reconstruction and a lack of leadership from Tokyo.

"We residents in the disaster areas hope the reconstruction budget will be used primarily for rebuilding our communities," said Chiharu Hayashi, an official at the reconstruction bureau of Fukushima prefectural government told AFP Thursday.

The figures came to a government-commissioned 140-page audit released last week detailing 392 public projects paid for with funds earmarked for reconstruction and disaster prevention.

"The purpose of the report is to expose to the rest of the public details of the budgeted projects," board of audit official Itsuyo Hasukawa said on Thursday.

"We didn't say which projects were appropriate and which were not, but following criticism by media and the public, each ministry may review their budgeted projects," he said.

The government in June validated the Diet members and twelve this month "we are reviewing this year's projects on the premise that suspension of budget use is possible." The audit conclusions are reminiscent of the years years of Japan's pork-barrel politics that observers say have left the countryside littered with useless bridges and barely-used roads that go nowhere. AFP

Europe's oldest prehistoric town found in Bulgaria

SOFIA—Archaeologists in eastern Bulgaria say they have unearthed the oldest prehistoric town ever found in Europe and that an ancient salt production site that may explain massive riches discovered in the region.

Excavations at the site near the modern-day town of Provadia have so far uncovered the remains of a settlement of two-storey houses, a series of pits used for treats as well as parts of a gate, hundreds of ceramic and stone tools and artifacts dating from the middle and late Chalcolithic age from 4,700 to 4,200 BC.

"We are not talking about a town like the Greek city-states, ancient Rome or medieval settlements, but almost what archaeologists agree constituted a town in the 5th millennium BC," said Vasil Nikolov, a researcher with Bulgaria's National Institute of Archeology after announcing the findings earlier this month.

Nikolov and his team have worked since 2005 to excavate the Provadia-Solnitsata archeological site, located some 40 kilometers from the Black Sea resort of Varna.

A small necropolis, or burial ground, was also found this year, but has yet to be studied more extensively and could keep archaeologists busy for generations. Archeologist Petar Radvanov from the National Institute of Archeology quoted by the latest find as "extremely interesting" due to the gruesome burial positions and objects found in the graves, which differ from other neolithic graves found in Bulgaria.

"The huge walls around the settlement, which were built very tall and with some blocks ... are also something unseen in excavations of prehistoric sites in southeastern Europe so far," Radvanov added.

Still fortified, a religious center and most importantly, a major production center for a specialized commodity that was traded far and wide, the settlement of about 350 people are all the conditions to be considered the first civilized "urban center" in Europe, the team says. "At a time when people did not know the wheel and cart, these people hauled huge rocks and built massive walls. Why? What did they hide behind them?" Nikolov asked. "Salt."

The area is home to huge rock-salt deposits, some of the largest in southeast Europe and the only ones so far explained as early as the sixth millennium BC, Nikolov said. This is what made Provadia-Solnitsata what it was. Nowadays, salt is still mined from some 7,500 years ago it had a completely different significance.

"Salt was an extremely valued commodity in ancient times, as it was both necessary for people's lives and was used as a method of trade and currency—the first money in the fifth millennium BC up to 600 BC," the researchers explained. AFP

REMAINS of a man with a ceramic bowl in the necropolis of a small settlement made of two-story houses near the town of Provadia in eastern Bulgaria. AFP/STR

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Gov't to change renewable energy mix

Bigger allocation eyed for solar, wind projects

By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy is planning to realocate the installation targets among the renewable energy sources in favor of the more expensive solar and wind power projects.

Energy Undersecretary Jose Layug Jr. assured the public, however, that such an action would not increase the feed-in-tariff (FIT) allowance—or the universal levy to be collected from all power consumers for the use of renewable energy facilities—beyond the estimate of 5 centavos per kilowatt hour (kWh).

GO TO B2

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
41.180

STOCK MARKET
▼ 2.16

Aboitiz holding firm hikes stakes in 2 subsidiaries

AEV finalizing acquisition of property unit

By Doris C. Dumlao

CONGLOMERATE Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc. has hoarded up to its worst in Union Bank of the Philippines and Aboitiz Power Corp. by buying shares of these companies now worth P2.9 billion at current stock market prices.

In a regulatory filing, AEV said it had acquired about 69 million additional shares in Union Bank from January to September this year, thus boosting its stake in the bank to 61.52 percent from 43.27 percent at the start of this year.

During the same period, AEV also acquired 21.7 million additional shares in Aboitiz Power, increasing its interest in the flagship unit to 76.83 percent from 76.1 percent.

The buyback of shares of subsidiaries from the open market is an indication of confidence in the banking and power businesses.

The additional eight million shares of Union Bank bought by AEV in the first nine months were worth P936 million based on Wednesday's closing price of P1.67 a share. Based on Union Bank's market capitalization of P68.63 billion, AEV's total interest was worth P38.57 billion.

On the other hand, the additional shares of Aboitiz Power bought by AEV from January to September were valued P1.01 billion based on Wednesday's closing price of P53.10 a share. This brings the total of total AEV interest to P196.45 billion based on the power holding firm's latest market capitalization of P213.2 billion.

Meanwhile, AEV expects to complete within this month its acquisition of 100 percent ownership of Aboitiz Land Inc. for about P3.2 billion. AEV's purchase of the property firm from its major shareholder Aboitiz & Co. stands to diversify the group's real estate business.

"The transaction is expected to be completed in November upon the execution of the respective share purchase agreement and other collateral documents," AEV said.

Aboitiz Land is one of the key Cebu real estate developers with investments in residential, commercial and industrial developments and property management. It is also the developer and operator of two economic zones: the Mactan Economic Zone II in Lapu-Lapu City and the Aboitiz Cebu Industrial Park in Balamban, through its subsidiary, Cebu Industrial Park Developers Inc.

Strict stock ownership review

Raul J. Bulaclacao

THE RECENT ruling of the Supreme Court in the case of Nelia Gutiboc vs Finance Secretary Teves, et al." has blurred the distinction between "legal ownership" and "beneficial ownership" as far as stocks is partially nationalized industries are concerned.

Using the capital structure of PLDT as reference point, the tribunal stated that "the 60-40 ownership requirement in favor of Filipino citizens in the constitution to engage in certain economic activities applies not only in voting control of the corporation, but also to the beneficial ownership of the corporation. The legal and beneficial ownership of 60 percent of the outstanding capital stock must rest in the hands of Filipino nationals in accordance with the constitutional mandate."

Legal ownership or title over shares of stock belongs to the person or entity whose name appears on the face of the stock certificate or, if no such document is issued, in the registry book of the broker-dealer concerned or manager of the corporation. Beneficial ownership, on the other hand, refers to the person or entity that has the right to enjoy the dividends or profits that the stocks are entitled to under the by-laws of the corporation.

For security or tax purposes, a stockholder can have his shares registered in the name of another person (the legal owner) but the right to receive the dividends that may be issued from them stays with him.

Responsibility

In the face of the tribunal's order requiring capital in partially nationalized industries to be owned in truth (not merely on paper) by Filipinos to the extent of at least 60 percent, corporate secretaries are now obliged to go beyond the face of the stock certificates to determine their real ownership.

If the stocks are in a person's name, ascertaining their legal or beneficial ownership, including the owner's nationality, does not pose a problem. There are credible government or privately issued documents that can be relied upon to verify these information.

But the story is different if the stocks are registered in a corporation's name. If we follow the spirit of the tribunal's ruling, the nationality of the stockholders of that corporation has to be examined to make sure the nationality requirement is scrupulously observed.

Every single stock of that stockholder corporation, regardless of its description as common/preferred, must undergo this test. In case the stockholder corporation has, in turn, one or more subscribing corporations, the same scrutiny is required in the latter corporations to ensure that the ultimate beneficial ownership in them, if any, does not breach the 40 percent ownership cutoff.

Bottom line, corporate secretaries have to go beyond the stockholders' ownership declarations and do two things: first, ascertain whether their ownership is both legal and beneficial; second, check if their nationalities are. Even to the ownership parameters laid down by the Constitution.

Guidelines

Let us assume a review of the capital stock and ownership of the listed companies shows that their foreign ownership exceeds 40 percent of the aggregate capital stock.

The tribunal said that PLDT could for that matter any company in a partially nationalized industry affected by the ruling) may be required sometime by the Securities and Exchange Commission "if it finds after due hearing that, at the start of the administrative case or investigation, there is an existing violation" of the Constitution.

With this directive, the companies concerned have to come up with shareholders who have or make the appropriate adjustments in their ownership structure to conform to the tribunal's ruling ahead of any investigation that the SEC may conduct for this purpose. The SEC has yet to issue the guidelines on this matter (as of the subject of writing. It will conduct public consultations with the affected parties on how it's address their concerns.

Ahead of those guidelines, in fact, shortly after the tribunal rendered its ruling on June 26, 2013, PLDT and the affected companies have already mapped out contingency plans to cope with its adverse consequences in the event it is not overturned.

Divestment

The proposed remedial actions include, among others, the creation of preferred voting shares, redemption of voting rights and spinning off of companies engaged in partially nationalized businesses. Considering the magnitude of foreign investments in these companies, some of these measures are fall short of the objective to make their capital structure compliant with the nationality requirement.

Thus, the affected foreign stockholders may be forced to divest or sell their shares to Filipinos or Philippine corporations under pain of administrative penalties or worse, the noncompliant stocks forfeited in favor of the government. Selling out is easier said than done. But, the Philippines is enjoying some level of economic boom for it to shudder at the prospect of enough Filipino businessmen or corporations that have the financial resources to acquire the foreign stockholdings that may have to be let go to comply with the tribunal's ruling.

It would be grossly unfair if foreign investors in the listed companies who bought in good faith to be subjected to do a fire-sale on their stocks or sell at a loss to comply with the unexpected shift in the interpretation of the rules on investments in partially nationalized industries.

The period within which the affected companies shall be allowed to remedy whatever deficiencies they may have in regard to their capital structures must reflect the reality on the ground and not be based on some sudden surge of nationalistic fervor. Justice Antonio Carpio was right when he said in his dissenting opinion that Congress, not the tribunal, should flesh out the intent of the Constitution on ownership of capital in nationalized industries.

It is scary when unelected justice packers, as many critics they have to fight to in the guise of judicial interpretation.

For comments, please send your e-mail to tpulidoresa@inquirer.com.ph

Gov't to change

From page B1

The DOE has set a limited installation target of 760 megawatts. That means that only those projects that receive an allowance from this installation target—which refers to the total capacity of renewable energy projects that will be allowed to be constructed within a three-year period—will be subject to the feed-in-tariff rates.

Under the current installation target, the 250 MW has been allocated for hydropower projects, 250 MW for biomass, 50 MW for solar, 200 MW for wind power and 10 MW for ocean power.

The initial plan being studied by the DOE is to increase the installation target for wind projects by another 50 to 60 MW to increase the allowable capacity to as much as 300 to 310 MW. The installation target for solar projects may also be increased by another 50 MW to a total of 60 MW.

According to Lapuz, the reallocation was meant to address the overabundance on the two particular resources. This means many of the proponents have wind and solar projects whose total capacities are much higher than the allocated installation targets.

Marcventures share issuance gets SEC nod

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has approved the initiative by embattled mining firm Marcventures Holdings Inc. of new common shares and warrants to swell coffers in a capital-raising exercise that will allow existing creditors to be repaid.

The SEC on Friday allowed the registration of up to 65.11 million new shares to creditors entitled to subscribe to the stocks and warrants based on a P0.26 a-share conversion price. The shares will consist of the following: 58.09 million common shares underlying the convertible loan, 17.02 million common shares underlying the warrants and 17.02 million warrants to be issued as no cash option conversion to shares of all or portion of the convertible loan.

The creditors entitled to subscribe to Marcventure's conversion shares are Stock Alliance Investment Corp. (nine million shares plus 2.25 million warrants), Wealth Securities Inc. (13.64 million shares plus 3.4 million warrants) and United Coconut Planters Life Assurance Corp. (35.45 million shares plus 11.36 million warrants). These creditors lent P349.8 million to Marcventures in March 2011 to fund the redevelopment of its nickel mining property in Surigao del Sur.

The company, through subsidiary Marcventures Mining and Development Corp. (MMDC), is engaged in exploration, mining and development of a nickel mine covering 5,599 hectares in Surigao del Sur.

Doris C. Dumlao

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

Marketing Buzz

BUSINESS Friday

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Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Unforgettable advertisements

By Roger Pe
Contributor

HOW does an ad become memorable and what makes it so much?

Do the "ask-ask" and listen to Jeff Goodby.

Goodby, who? Jeff Goodby is the other half of Goodby, Silverstein and Partners, one of the world's most creative and, over the years, effective, ad agencies. He just did a high profile TV commercial for a US presidential candidate.

Goodby's "ask-ask" is a pinning his work into the real market. In his stinging Ad Age article, he called some useless in the ad industry as "irrelevant smartchasers."

He said: "When you get into a taxi and tell the driver that you're in advertising, and they ask whether you've done anything they might be familiar with, what have you got to say?"

"Majority of things we're researching as an industry are either small or marginal efforts for legitimate clients. We're cut and a system that rewards work that is increasingly unknown to anyone outside the business," Goodby lamented.

Indeed, the taxi driver, the man on the street, the housewife cooking "Tinola" for her family at home, students learning their advertising regimen in MBA and admin college workers, market vendors - the consumers as a whole, determine which ads are memorable. Not the award judges.

"Commercials are memorable because they can stand the tests of time. You don't get bored seeing them again and again because they are able to connect to you," says a well-known creative director.

Should you remember the ads you saw last night three years from now? Probably yes, perhaps.

A memorable ad is seen by a great number of people. What's a great ad if only the creators and association people saw it", says a newsstop communications practitioner.

(CLOCKWISE) "IMPATSO" (Mondilunz, GOLD); McDonald's, "Pyros" (Globe Telecom)

"Commercials are memorable because they can stand the tests of time. You don't get bored seeing them . . ."

Ad agencies have different formulae for making memorable TV commercials. When you look at them closely, they're all one and the same, only the packaging varies.

Here are a few examples, the products, to which their ads are measured.

How it deliver the Brit (relevance, originality, impact)? Is it disruptive, does it inspire the love marks, create humanizing advertising, remembering the focus on the product and nothing but the product, resist the sameness, rise above the clutter, etc.

A memorable ad is simple, but not simplistic. It should immediately engage with the audience it is talking to within a few seconds.

It can be understood by the world, even if it is culturally unique. It has a universal appeal.

A memorable ad makes you smile, you learn a new insight that one has told you before, it communicates in personal way.

"One cannot pull a heartstring if your ad is irrelevant," says a top marketing guy. "So ad without emotion cannot bond with the audience," he adds.

Having said those, Business Friday recaps the most memorable Filipino ads based on a 16-month research. The criteria for being memorable are based on both creativity and effectivity. It is not one without the other.

"LOLO" (McDonald's, Leo Burnett)

Before it became the fun Philippine is controversial to win gold in Asia's toughest award competition, "Lolo" was already a favorite among millions of Filipino TV viewers.

Despite her remember Karen, the grand daughter whose late grandfather often reminisces in Gina. Memorable for its simplicity and big idea, the burger-slicing scene was heart-tugging and made people cry.

"I like the commercial for several reasons," says University of the Philippines College of Fine Arts Associate Professor Alex Reyes.

"It touches the heart to see this heartwarming scene of the grandfather showing his love and care for the granddaughter despite his failing memory. Karen, showed her love by being patient, understanding and spending time with her grandfather," Reyes says.

Reyes says the same may happen to one's family and watching the ad actually made her feel like watching her own father in his old age. "The scene is so real and the acting is natural," she exclaims.

"A commercial becomes memorable when there is simplicity and clarity in the presentation, whether the approach is humorous, dramatic or slice of life," Reyes says.

"NOVICES" (Del Monte Spaghetti Sauce, McCann-Erickson)

Brilliant copywriting. Beautifully produced. Made like a Hollywood movie. The TV commercial dominates the product's ease of preparation when perfectly cast talents played roles as mute doing their daily hardwearking duties. Spawned a series of ads that packaged a local brand as premium. Bow to the sales district and challenged.

"CLEOPATRA" (Superwheel Detergent Bar, J. Walter Thompson)

If some people measure remember this ad it's probably because they weren't born yet as the time when it was at its all-time high - recall and sales-wise.

For those who enjoyed it every time it was on television, it was. The Detergent Bar, for sure.

The campaign used pastiche of famous characters, building the brand to the top. Elizabeth's Batman's crumbled a massive earthquake. "Maganyanka na lang ako sa akin."

"ANGAT SA IBA" (Sarsi, Basic Advertising)

Literally taxed me from a set of boring TV commercials in the 80s for its visual design, verve, vitality and pride for one's town.

When the agency pitched for this account, the client was so impressed with its idea it was handed the account in silver platter - just a few minutes after the presentation. It aired today, it would still give you goosebumps, the mark of a true classic.

"FUNE" (Globe Telecom, Havrian Communications)

A breakthrough campaign during its launched, often all jokes aside were technical, features and price-driven.

This damning commercial endowed many viewers because it was about real people.

Remind "a goth, rocker chick" as blanked woman, formerly G30 of the ad agency describes the role of the lead talent.

As her parents wait for her to be driven to school, her mom couldn't stand her messy room and rock music. But find her a soft side and the "real" daughter who may look like a couple actually cares for and loves her mom.

"SANG PLATITONG MANI" (San Miguel Beer Pale Pilsen, PAC, Philippine Advertising Counselors)

Good-natured humor with people from different backgrounds finding a common ground, Rico J. Puno, Jodrey Domingo, the late hosting great Gabriel "Flash" Elorde and Boy "Yaw" Marcelo star in this laid-back, honeymoonly, non-stop-dad TV commercial.

Over a pitcherful of San Miguel Beer, Marcelo orders "bahaw na Pusit", Domingo asks for "Tahilerrrang Baka" and Rico J. prefers "Crispy Pata". Flash Elorde becomes the final arbiter and refuses by making everyone settle for, you guessed it, a thicket of roasted peanuts.

"ULIANIN" (Union Creative Partners)

Creative Guild's Print Ad of the Year in 1997, crowned by last year's Creative Guild of the Philippines' Lifetime Achievement honoree Maria Montenegro. Perhaps, one of the most memorable ads. Fiftysome print ads that came out in the 80s and still as witty as it is today. Penned by one of the country's talented advertising men.

"IMPATSO" (Mondilunz, TBWA/Santiago, Mangada & Puno)

Dandy as 007. Premium brand. Obvious wink to Mediacracy, excellent casting for both Cinema and boomer generation. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in a scene dream rendered by the latter for the historic meeting, Obasia suffers indigestion.

Extremely funny, outstanding script, and inspired direction, how can anyone forget this?

FITA (My San Biscuits, Lowe Worldwide)

Its irresistibly delicious you just can't part with it. Scored on a biscuit as the punk, a young man is about to take his last two pieces of Fita. From his left, a girl heart him to it and grabs it. He is left with the last piece but he could help convey ease him and wriggle it.

He is adamant but breaks it into two. Old lady turns into a beautiful hero and rewards him with a wink. He answers, "sports ka." He gets it, an actual sports ca to half, loudly dropping from the sky.

'How should we respond to the growth of private label brands?'

MARKETING Rx

Dr. Ned Roberto & Andy Roberto

Q: WE HOPE you won't mind if we don't identify ourselves. We believe you'll totally understand the reasons for after you've read our request for your Marketing Rx.

We're one of the many national brands who are also suppliers to the country's top and largest private label brand. Our concern is very real.

1) To start, we agreed to be a source and supplier but after several years, we're having serious second thoughts. The volume of orders from the private label brand has increased so much to the point that a given order often gets in conflict with our production priority for our own national brand. Also, because of, or maybe along with this ever-increasing volume in purchase order, this private label has been eating our national brand's share of business in the retail stores who own this private label brand.

In our ongoing critical review of this side of our business, we've been gathering experts' opinions and suggestions. We have high regard for your talents and wish to request for your advice as a marketing and brand management expert.

How should we respond to this growth of private label brand without alienating our good relationship with its owner and of the same time ensuring our continuing availability in its stores?

A: We should start with with some basic clarifications: First is to have a common understanding of what a private label brand is. Learning what others mean it's learning by a consensus and not necessarily way toward their understanding. A private label brand is also known as "a store brand," "a retailer's own brand," or "an in-house brand."

In the Philippines, what is the largest and also the first private label brand? In the retail trade community, this is known to be SM Basics. First of all, at an SM supermarket, there's almost 40,000 to 60,000 products at SM's Hard Buying Center sit in shelves depending on the supermarket's size. We were told that some 1,000 or more of these items carry their store brand name, SM Basics. The range of products under this store brand has grown to be very extensive and includes:

(1) personal care products,
(2) canned goods,
(3) packaged snacks,
(4) laundry soap,
(5) pet care products,
(6) fresh meat, and
(8) poultry.

What's the driver for its increasing purchases by shoppers? The key purchase motivation among shopping consumers is low price. An SM Basics brand retails at 15 percent to 20 percent cheaper than leading national brands.

How come SM has succeeded in enlarging this shopper segment and in dominating it? SM has made 24's probably an exaggeration to say that it has scale of Titanic proportion.

As a food retailer group, SM (consolid of Jan of 2009) a total of 63 establishments made up of 26 SM supermarkets, 13 SM hypermarts, 25 Savemore stores, and 12 Makros.

SM reported that in 2009, these 63 establishments accounted for 38 percent of total retail sales, and 77 percent of total net income. "Earnings" reached P6.1 billion in 2009 up from P5.2 billion in 2008.

Research has shown that the growing sales productivity of private label brands comes from a growing market segment of mostly price-conscious shoppers across all socio-economic classes. These shoppers want high quality products at lower prices. You cannot expect to satisfy this shopper priority value to all products. This is realistic to satisfy in those products encompassed by the SM Basics product range.

Consider, for example, personal care products, packaged snacks, and laundry soap. Do you remember how local known priced brands like Safeguard found it relatively easy to participate in the personal care products? Price-conscious shoppers found Safeguard as serving just as well what they wanted from even well-known imported brands. Or recall what happened in the packaged snack category. Its success in isolation were so low that the cheap but tasty "Boy Bawang" was able to gain entry and earn a good market share. Or recollect how a local lesser priced detergent brand "Champion" and "Pride," took on the no. 1 and the no. 2 competitive positions at the height of our economics in 2009 and 2010. The economy and sub-economy price segmenting strategy has been also the pivotal market entry and market swaying strategy of the private label, house brands.

What about the future? Let's see how private label brands have succeeded in its market penetration in the developed countries.

According to a 2004 A.C. Nielsen data, it is in Switzerland, where the supc have overtaken "house brands have the highest market shares in retail value of 41 percent unit share and 48 percent in value share. It is in the US and Canada where the top three retailers' house brands have the lowest market shares: 18 percent unit share and 17 percent value share in the U.S.; and 23 percent unit share and 25 percent value share in Canada.

One of the undeniable market implications here is that private labels had effectively entered the retail market and will continue to enlarge its market participation. This has the potential to grow to as much as 50 percent of the retail market value just by its top three house brands: The #1 Nielsen report also showed that private labels give larger margins to retailers. That means that house brands are here to stay.

So as a national or cross-market brand, what should you do? How should you respond? Our Marketing Rx is this. Stay with your competitive advantage in the premium price segment where you belong. Continue keeping on your quality advantage but making sure that you also contain or harnessing their quality. At the price that your private label counterpart is paying, give your principal the commensurate quality for their house brand. This way, your principal will find it overseas rewarding as well as profitable to stay with you as its house brand supplier. That's the solution solution to your situation.

Keep your questions coming. Send them to us at Marketingrx@pldt.net.ph or drnedmarketingrx@gmail.com. God bless!

Meat, fish seminar with ice cream making

THE CULINARY Treasures Skills and Development Program will conduct a one-day seminar on meat and fish processing combined with ice cream making to be held at the SMX Convention Center, Mezzanine Flr., Rm. 12, Mall of Asia Complex, Pasay City on Nov. 13, Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For the meat and fish processing program, participants will experience how to make halfnet meatballs, various different kinds of longanisa (Alcoban, Pigan, Lechon) bacon, Chinese sausage, embutido deluxe, chicken and pork ham, pork quekiam, beef tapa, fish ball, fish fillet, squash and sardines sardine, pork and longanisa, beef tapa, corned beef and how to make achara, and actual demo on how to debone.

The seminar will also tackle how to make home made ice cream and sorbet or sherbet using a machine to create different flavors -mango, strawberry, vanilla, cheese, pistachio, up to fancy ice cream flavors - chocolate fudge, turkey roast and different flavors of sorbet.

Participants will receive a certificate of training right after the seminar. There will be food tasting of the finished products. Lunch and snack will be served, handouts, and all the raw materials for hands-on will be provided. This seminar is open to every one particularly for those who wanted to venture into the meat and fish processing and ice cream making business.

For questions call 813-61-51, 421-13-77, 436.78.28, or log on to www.culinarytreasures@hotmail.com or like us on facebook.

People, Events & Products

E-mail: supplements@inquirer.com.ph
Supplements Head Jong Arcasas

AFFI, BPI Family laud successful local franchise brands at 11th Filipino Franchise Show

THE Association of Filipino Franchisors Inc. (AFFI) officially opened the 11th Filipino Franchise Show recently at the World Trade Center, Pasay City. With the theme "Uniting ng Pinoy," the three-day event showcased the best of Pinoy franchise brands that contributed to the country's economic growth. AFFI officers graced the event, along with Subic Bootmaster President Ilona Bass, Lamudpan Corp.'s Chief Executive Officer Cecilio Pedro, and Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship Chairman and Founder Jose Concepcion.

One of the highlights during the opening ceremony was the special citation, the Uniting ng Pinoy Franchise Excellence Award, given to Television Production Exposition, Inc. (TPEI) through its recent and pioneering partnership with Indonesian network Surya Citra Televisi (SCTV) that franchised "Eat Bulaga!" to Indonesia. The longest-running noon-time show in the Philippines immediately clicked with the Indonesian audience and received high ratings on its first retail session. TPEI Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Antonio "Tony" D. Tuviera personally received the award.

Market Watch, the leading online provider of business and financial news, has recently cited the Philippines as one of Asia's New Leading Tiger Economy for the robust growth of the country's franchise industry. This has encouraged significant moves in the franchising industry such as AFFI and BPI Family, through its Ka-Negosyo Business Loans, to strengthen their role to support the country's booming franchise industry.

In support of franchising, BPI Family, through its Ka-Negosyo program, gave franchise show attendees convenient means to the latest franchise opportunities such as the Ka-Negosyo Boot List, the roster of the country's best and brightest franchise brands to-date and the recently launched "Ka-Negosyo Credit Line," a multi-purpose, multi-source credit line facility, and an all-in-one money product that offers utmost flexibility for every entrepreneur.

To know more about BPI Family Ka-Negosyo, log on to bpifamily.com. You may also call 754-PHONO, email negosyo@bpi.com.ph, text 0917-8526PHONO or 0922-8876PHONO, or visit any BPI and BPI Family Savings Bank branch nationwide.

PHOTO: Teresa Laurel. AFFI chairman of the board and the 11th Filipino Franchise Show co-chairman Tess Ngao Tan, AFFI board of director Jenny Rose, president of Subic Bootmasters Armando Barcelona, AFFI and the 11th Filipino Franchise Show chairman Ricardo Cua, AFFI vice president Antonio Isasiga, president and chief executive officer (CEO) of Cat Bologic Anita Sue-Ortigoza of World and AFFI director of membership, Hermelo Bank of Philippines and AFFI Luzon Chapter director and Margarita Atienza, BPI Family Ka-Negosyo Luzon Brand Manager.

PLDT offers landline subcribers upgrade path to a Telpad Plan

WITH the tremendous success and overwhelming interest from landline subscribers who recently availed of its very tempting offer to upgrade to a Telpad plan, PLDT is relaunching the attractive promotion until the end of the month to allow more subscribers to enjoy the unique applications of the Telpad.

PLDT myDSL subscribers can also avail of PLDT's Twolve with Us' promotional events in Ayala Malls, Glorietta Center and Shangri-la Mall in Mandaluyong to upgrade their subscription to a Telpad Plan and receive a matching home internet connectivity and freshly installed at home.

PLDT's Twolve with Us' campaign is the Telco's approach in showing consumers how phone handset devices evolved overtime – from the rotary phone that became popular in the 60's, until the push- button became the de facto telephone handset unit in the 90s.

Today, these devices still exist but being replaced by modern and sophisticated handset products like the Telpad – the world's first tablet and landline rolled into one. A growing number of landline subscribers are now enjoying the benefits of subscribing to PLDT's Telpad – which provides convenience, unlimited local calls, internet and PLDT services.

"We want more customers to enjoy the LTE1 promise when they upgrade to a Telpad Plan and be part of the community of satisfied subscribers," said Orly Teng, Head – Home Marketing for Voice, SMS and Value-Added.

To allow more subscribers to avail of the upgrade promotion, PLDT is setting up booths in Robinson's Place Manila, Robinson's Galleria in Ortigas, and Shoppe Mall in Pampanga from 27-28 October 2012, to offer landline subscribers who avail of the upgrade offer stand to get special freebies for signing up on the spot.

Various interesting and interactive activities have also been lined up for the whole family during the event.

Kids visiting the booths catch their parents will have a chance to play either in-store edutainment or edutainment games using the Telpad. The player catch the best three will get various Gift Certificates.

A showcase of the evolution of landline – from the rotary-type unit of the 60s to the push-button phones of the 80s and today's sophisticated touch-based Telpad will also be on display during the two-day event.

PLDT myDSL subscribers have until 31 October 2012 to avail of the upgrade promotion on a Telpad Plan.

GLOBE TIES UP WITH BROADSOFT, IOME FOR VOICE SOLUTIONS

Globe Business recently signed an agreement with Broadsoft and Gian Resources Inc. (GRI) to provide hosted PBX voice solutions. SIP (Session Initiation Protocol) trunking allows enterprises to use the IP network in lieu of the conventional telephone trunks to communicate with local and mobile phone subscribers worldwide. A SIP trunk is primarily a concept set out that is routed over the IP backbone of a service provider using VoIP technology. Used in conjunction with an IP PBX, it is transmitted between a data network, instead of over an ISDN circuit. Hosted PBX system, on the other hand, is a bit featured, highly-scalable IP phone solution that can be subscribed to on a "per line" basis, eliminating the need for customers to buy and manage expensive equipment. Instead, most of the maintenance will be hosted by Globe, and all traffic is routed through Globe to and from a company's different locations. Shown in photo from left are Francisco Fernando Ogsimundo, Globe Business Head for Business Products and Services; Jerico Pinpin, Head of Globe Business; Jonathan Wan, Broadsoft Asia Pacific's VP for Sales; and Alberto Calanog, iOne Resources President.

Yamaha School of Music's "handog" to students

FOR over 30 years, thousands of students nationwide have trusted Yamaha School of Music programs to inspire a lifelong love and appreciation for music learning, playing and creative expression.

As a token of appreciation, Yamaha School of Music gives all students special promo during Yamaha Sale which will run from October 16 to 31, 2012. Enrollments during the promo duration will be given special discounts of up to 30% for cash transactions to Individual Courses and free additional enrollments for Group Enrollments with a minimum of 16 lessons. School Enrollments are also available in easy payment installment scheme at 0% interest, six months to pay through participating credit card companies for a minimum of 36 lessons, subject to bank approval.

Enjoy while learning, for more inquiries about Yamaha School of Music Philippines, Inc. and its special offers for school enrollment during Yamaha Sale 2012, you may call 899-9505 ext. 202, 897-2502 or 897-9692 or log on to www.ymsphgrs.com.

Yamaha School of Music offers comprehensive music education courses, individual and Group, in Voice and Musical Instruments like Guitar & Ukulele, Violin, Piano, Organ, Acoustic and Electronic Drums, Saxophone, Flute and Violin, as well as integrated Music Courses.

Giving hand in Mother Nature. ATI's employees volunteers, led by VP for Business Support Services Jerry Revote, gamely pose as they take part in a weekend activity aimed to protect and preserve the La Mesa Watershed.

ATI protects La Mesa watershed

As part of its Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives, publicly-listed port operator Asian Terminals Inc. (ATI), along with its employee volunteers, recently spent its weekend to give back to Mother Nature as it planted some 500 seedlings and saplings at the La Mesa Nature Reserve.

The nature reserve is the last remaining forest cover in the metropolis and serves as the watershed for La Mesa Dam which supplies a total of the potable water requirements of Metro Manila's 12 million residents.

The activity is part of the long-term partnership and advocacy shared between ATI and ABS-CBN Foundation's Bantay Kalikasan which serves as the vehicle to rehabilitate and sustainably manage the La Mesa Watershed. ATI has thus far reforested and preserved 15 hectares of the watershed since the partnership began in 2008.

ATI operates the Manila South Harbor, the Port of Batangas, the Batangas Container Terminal, Sta. Rosa Container Yard, Inland Container Depot in Laguna and is a strategic partner in the South Container-integrated Port in General Santos City.

COUNTRY BANKERS LIFE COVERAGE FOR COOP

COUNTRY Bankers Life Insurance Corporation (CBLIC) signed a memorandum of agreement with Bethlehemite-A Maria Multi-Purpose Cooperative (BMMPC) to provide life insurance coverage to its regular and associate members. Established in 1988, BMMPC has continued its membership base to over 10,000 individuals to date. From left, Bethlehemite-A Maria Multi-Purpose Cooperative Chairman Rolando B. Gonzales, BMMPC vice-chair Jose Pedro, CBLIC SVP, public relations & marketing communications head Julius D. Villareal, CBLIC AVP and director for national affairs, Hector Dimaio, BMMPC president/CEO, and Jojo I. Flores, BMMPC relationship manager.

Safeguard your credit card from unauthorized use

PROTECT yourself from unauthorized use of your credit card, at a very affordable premium, you can spare yourself of the worry and hassle that comes with losing a credit card or if you fall victim to credit fraud.

For only P695 a year, you can get higher insurance coverage with Citi Card Protection for your Citibank Credit Card. You can reimburse losses worth up to P40,000 for every unauthorized credit card use and a maximum of P200,000 per year.

You don't have to panic if you find out that your credit card is suddenly gone. By enrolling it to Citi Card Protection, you can recover losses from fraudulent transactions that occurred 48 hours before reporting a lost credit card. The Citi Card Protection also has you covered if you encounter transactions you did not make because your personal information has been stolen. Citibank cardholders can reimburse losses from misuse of a credit card due to identity theft reported within 30 days from the occurrence date.

Philcare enters into strategic partnership with transcom

AS part of its commitment to continuously provide quality customer service to its members, PhilCare, one of the country's most trusted healthcare service providers, recently announced that it has signed a strategic alliance contract with Transcom Worldwide S.A., a global recognized outsourced service provider known for its exceptional focus on a quality customer service experience.

As part of the partnership, Transcom will provide PhilCare's In-bound Customer Service and Customer Care from its Manila, Philippines location. PhilCare also serves as Transcom's first Philippine-based client to be serviced offshore.

Siva Subramanian, country manager (Philippines) & Head of Sales (Asia Pacific), commented, "This is a very exciting partnership for us, and one that I began envisioning when we originally contacted PhilCare to provide BRO services for our employees. This opportunity will give us a chance to establish a team of qualified nurses to handle calls to both Filipino and Filipino for PhilCare members across the country."

SIGNING after the contract signing are, from left, Dyone Tubia, account manager for Transcom; from S. Lingat, BRO, Vice President - Medical Director for PhilCare; Jaspar L. Tanco, PhilCare's SVP & COO; Siva Subramanian, country manager for Transcom Philippines; and Emily Grace R. Ruiz, director for operations, Transcom.

Jaspar L. Tanco, executive vice president and chief operations officer (EVP & COO) for PhilCare shares that the partnership is in line with PhilCare's goal to continuously improve its service to its members. "We are glad that Transcom is now part of the PhilCare team as they are known for their solid reputation for excellent service. Through them we can transcend the customer service experience of our members to even greater heights."

Transcom recently entrusted PhilCare as the BRO services provider for all its employees and their dependents. The move highlighted PhilCare's service and network capability in providing the health care needs of the business process outsourcing (BPO) industry.

Transcom's contract with PhilCare represents the exact step for the company to servicing the Asia Pacific member.

PhilHealth and Roche launch HER2 breast cancer benefit

The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) and research-focused healthcare company Roche recently signed a memorandum of agreement which will make Roche treatments accessible to PhilHealth enrolled/reference hospitals for PhilHealth members who are pre-qualified by PhilHealth to participate in the Z Package program.

The PhilHealth Z Package program covers catastrophic illnesses that have medical and economic consequences to members. PhilHealth members especially the poor are often deprived of quality of care necessary to attain better health outcomes. This catastrophic illnesses that are currently covered under the Z Package are early breast including HER2-positive breast cancer, early pancreatic cancer, childhood leukemia, and kidney transplant.

The benefit is under the public-private partnership (PPP), a cooperative structure between the public and private sectors, built on the expertise of each partner, that best meet clearly defined public needs through the appropriate allocation of resources, risks and rewards. It is also in line with PhilHealth's thrust to achieve Universal Health Care for all Filipinos and to fulfill its aspirations of "Bawat Pilipino, Miyembro Dapat Mayroon, Pero Walang Kahirapan Hinde, Hypocrito." PhilHealth benefits for catastrophic conditions are improving and expanding to give relevant services that accord better health outcomes and financial risk protection to its members.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS

- Copy of Death Certificate
- Any identification documents (ID)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and SAME-TO-SAME payments

"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again." 2 Corinthians 5:5

Our dearly beloved

Ma. Cecilia "Cecille" Pascual Guiao

has joined our Creator and entered eternal peace on October 30, 2012 at the age of 35.

She had bravely confronted and fought her years of battle with breast cancer.

Visitation is being held today until November 3, 2012 at the Ambassador, St. Peter Memorial Chapels at Quezon Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on November 4, 2012 at Holy Cross Memorial Park. Her family requests the prayers of her relatives and friends for the eternal repose of her soul.

She fought a good fight, she kept the faith, she went the race!

ST. PETER CHAPELS

The Board of Directors, the Management, Officers and Staff of

CHINABANK

announce with deep sorrow the passing of its beloved *Consultant and former First Vice President and Chief Accountant*

Juan Garcia Coreces, Sr.

"Johnny"

June 23, 1923 - October 30, 2012

We request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Mass is at **Sta. Maria Della Strada Parish Church**, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. Funeral Mass will be on Sunday, November 4, 2012 at 1:30 pm. Interment will follow at the **Loyola Memorial Park**, Marikina City.

FEDERICO L. LIM

of Tondo, Manila

"KIDOY" was called home to the Lord on October 28, 2012 at the age of 68.

His wife Yang Yang; daughter Rosemarie and son Alvin; sisters-in-law, nephews and nieces request the prayer readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Inc., Imperial Standard Chapel, C. Arellano Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will take place on Monday, November 5, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. at La Funeraria Paz Crematory.

"Now is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day; and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." 2 Timothy 4:8

EDGARDO V. SANCHEZ

Died in the Grace of our Lord on October 28, 2012 at the age of 79.

His remains lie in state at Chapel D, St. Peter Memorial Chapels, Novaliches, Quezon City.

Interment will be on November 3, 2012 10:00 AM at the Forest Park, Caloocan City.

The family request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

ST. PETER CHAPELS

CLASSIFIEDS

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

BUSINESS FOR SALE

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

CONDOMINIUMS

LOT

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

LOAN & MORTGAGE

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NOVEMBER 3 & 4, 2012

GLORIETTA ACTIVITY CENTER

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

Regional Office No. IV-A

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT (AEP)

	Name and Address of Company/ Employer	Name and Citizenship of Foreign National	Position and Brief Description of Functions
1.	ABOUT INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL MANILA Bonifacio Bldg., Bonifacio Bldg. Bonifacio Drive, Binan, Laguna	Ms. Diana Marie Nigh American	Grade Teacher (Part Time)
2.	HARMAN INTERNATIONAL INC. 8/F Jaka Basmen, Cainta	Mr. Kyoung Won Cho Korean	Component Manager
3.	LASSUBA GROUP, INC. Laguna Technopark, Binan, Laguna	Mr. Wenxin Dai Japanese	Training and Marketing Advisor
4.	MICHEL OVERSEAS CORP. Subic Bay, Zambales	Mr. Eugene Pajarillo Filipino	Deputy Superintendent
5.	MICHEL OVERSEAS CORP. Subic Bay, Zambales	Mr. John Andrew Kidd British	Marine Piloting Superintendent
6.	FIRST RECLAMATION ENTERPRISES Jurisdiction, San Pedro, Laguna	Ms. Jenifer Fajardo Filipino	Technical Advisor
7.	MOG PHILIPPINES, INC. Ayala Cebu Business Park, Cebu City, Cebu	Mr. Michel Desrochers Canadian	Instrument Technician
8.	MTEL-NOTE TELECOM TECHNOLOGIES, INC. 28th Flr. Robinsons Equitable Tower, Ayala Ave. cor. Poblacion St., Makati City	Mr. Yusuke Kondoh Japanese	Technical Advisor
9.	ZTECH PHILIPPINES, INC. Gateway Business Park, Brgy. Javalera, Gen. Trias, Cavite	Mr. Hyungsoo Park Korean	HR Manager

If you have any information/objection in the above-named application, please communicate with the Regional Director.

ALEX T. AVILA
OIC-Regional Director

CLASSIFIEDS

BATANGAS II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Antipolo del Norte, Lipa City

INVITATION TO BID

WHAT	Bidding for SMI BELLE II Employees Uniform of B (2012-2020)
WHEN	November 8, 2012 (Pre-bidding Conference) 1:30 P.M.
WHERE	BATELEC II Staff House Conference Room Antipolo del Norte, Lipa City
Cost of Bid Documents	Php 3,000.00

Those interested Bidders shall bring the following Pre-Qualification Documents:

1. Business Registration to BTr or SEC
2. Permit to Operate (Mayor's Permit)
3. Comprehensive Company Profile
4. Audited Financial Statement
5. Updated Income Tax Returns
6. Distributorship/Dealership/Manufacturer's Certificate, etc.
7. Notarized authorization from the company being represented (for Representatives)

For Inquiries, Prospective Bidders may call PBAC Secretary Sitty Ann Diana A. Abbey at (043) 756-4037 local 108.

Noted by:

(Sgd.) **ENGR. ELIZALINA SUNGA**
Procurement, Bids and Awards Committee Chairperson

(Sgd.) **ENGR. REYNALDO N. MENDOZA**
Assistant General Manager

LEGAL NOTICE

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment
Regional Office No. IV-A
Notice of Filing of Application for Alien Employment Permit (AEP)
Name and Address of Company/ Employer | Name and Citizenship of Foreign National | Position and Brief Description of Functions
1. ABOUT INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL MANILA, Bonifacio Bldg., Bonifacio Bldg. Bonifacio Drive, Binan, Laguna | Ms. Diana Marie Nigh, American | Grade Teacher (Part Time)
2. HARMAN INTERNATIONAL INC., 8/F Jaka Basmen, Cainta | Mr. Kyoung Won Cho, Korean | Component Manager
3. LASSUBA GROUP, INC., Laguna Technopark, Binan, Laguna | Mr. Wenxin Dai, Japanese | Training and Marketing Advisor
4. MICHEL OVERSEAS CORP., Subic Bay, Zambales | Mr. Eugene Pajarillo, Filipino | Deputy Superintendent
5. MICHEL OVERSEAS CORP., Subic Bay, Zambales | Mr. John Andrew Kidd, British | Marine Piloting Superintendent
6. FIRST RECLAMATION ENTERPRISES, Jurisdiction, San Pedro, Laguna | Ms. Jenifer Fajardo, Filipino | Technical Advisor
7. MOG PHILIPPINES, INC., Ayala Cebu Business Park, Cebu City, Cebu | Mr. Michel Desrochers, Canadian | Instrument Technician
8. MTEL-NOTE TELECOM TECHNOLOGIES, INC., 28th Flr. Robinsons Equitable Tower, Ayala Ave. cor. Poblacion St., Makati City | Mr. Yusuke Kondoh, Japanese | Technical Advisor
9. ZTECH PHILIPPINES, INC., Gateway Business Park, Brgy. Javalera, Gen. Trias, Cavite | Mr. Hyungsoo Park, Korean | HR Manager
If you have any information/objection in the above-named application, please communicate with the Regional Director.
ALEX T. AVILA
OIC-Regional Director

BUSINESS

GIR seen to set new records in '13

By Michelle V. Remo

THE COUNTRY'S foreign exchange reserves could rise at a historic high of about $82.56 billion—may continue breaking records next year on expectations of better economic growth and the predictability of an investment grade (currency dollar inflows).

This was according to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, which said that favorable prospects for the economy next year might lead to increased inflows of foreign exchange, particularly in the form of foreign portfolio and direct investments.

"Balance of payments surplus will likely provide more dollars in the market, resulting in the BSP's ability to accumulate more foreign exchange for its reserves," BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo told the Inquirer.

The $83.9-billion in gross international reserves as of the end of September were enough to payfor 11.8 months worth of imports and were 6.5 times the country's foreign currency-denominated debts maturing within the short term.

This GIR level is also higher than the combined outstanding foreign currency-denominated debts of the government and private entities in the Philippines.

The country's outstanding external debt stood at $62.3 billion as of the end of the first semester, data from the central bank showed.

The BSP believes the Philippines will fall in economic growth of 5 to 6 percent for this year and 6 to 7 percent for next year.

It also said there was a good chance the country would get an investment grade by next year, especially since all the three major international credit ratings agencies have given the Philippines a rating of just one notch below investment grade.

These, Guinigundo said, would help the country win the favor of more investors.

"The credit ratings upgrades and continued macroeconomic stability will encourage more dollar inflows," the central bank official said.

Last week, Moody's Investors Service upgraded its credit rating for the Philippines from Ba2 to Ba1, or from two notches to just one notch below investment grade, further, Fitch Ratings and Standard & Poor's gave the country the same rating.

The three credit watchdogs cited encouraging economic growth performance, even amid problems confronting the global economy, in their assessment of the country's credit standing.

In the first quarter, the Philippine economy grew by 5.1 percent from year-ago level, even as the euro zone was in recession and the United States economy was struggling with unemployment and weak consumption problems.

Also, remittances from Filipinos overseas are expected to continue supporting the country's foreign exchange reserves.

ROBINSONS LAND SEALS EXCLUSIVITY DEAL WITH PEPSI

Robinsons Land Corp. president Frederick Go and Pepsi-Cola Products Philippines Inc. (PCPPI) president Portia Ongsiako Reyes (second and third from left) shake hands after signing a three-year exclusivity deal. The agreement granted Pepsi the exclusive right to service food courts and cinemas in all Robinsons shopping malls nationwide. The signing was witnessed by Robinsons Mall general manager Arlene Magtibay (left) and PCPPI executive vice president for sales Joan Batchelor Sison (right).

Otto Energy set to drill 5 wells next year

By Amy R. Remo

AUSTRALIAN FIRM Otto Energy Ltd. is planning to drill five wells by end-2013, as it targets to tap the prospective oil and gas structures in Palawan and the Visayas.

Otto Energy chief executive officer Gregor McNab said in a regulatory filing that two wells would be development wells that would be drilled under Phase II of the Galoc oil field development, covered by Service Contract 14C. The remaining three will be exploration wells within Galoc North (SC 14C), Otto's prospect (SC 55), and Bohol prospect (SC51).

Energy Undersecretary Jose Ma. Layug Jr. commended the efforts of Otto Energy, noting that the company was among the most serious proponents in the Philippine upstream oil and gas exploration sector.

According to Otto Energy, the $118-million Phase II development for Galoc is expected to increase field production to more than 12,000 barrels of oil per day (BOPD) from the current 8,000 BOPD, or deliver 8 million barrels of additional reserves.

As of end-of-June this year, production at the Galoc oil field had breached the 9-million barrel mark, accounting for 63 percent of the 14.44 million barrels in projected reserves.

Under service contract 14C, an exploration well is also expected to be drilled in the adjacent Galoc South exploration prospect.

PH ranks 10th in terms of corporate governance

By Michelle V. Remo

THE PHILIPPINES emerged as the second worst country when it comes to improving governance, according to the latest survey of 13 countries in Asia by the Asian Corporate Governance Association (ACGA).

ACGA's latest "Corporate Governance Watch 2012" showed that the Philippines ranked 10th out of 11 countries in terms of adherence of corporate entities to "good governance" practices.

The Philippines got a score of 41 points in this year's survey, and only Indonesia ranked lower with a score of 37 points. Singapore again got the highest rank in this year's survey by scoring 69 points.

But despite the dismal performance in the 2012 survey, it was still an improvement from 2010 when the Philippines was ranked the worst when it comes to corporate governance.

The rankings of the other countries in the 2012 survey are: Hong Kong, 2nd with score of 66 points; Thailand, third with 58; Japan and Malaysia, joint fourth with 55; Taiwan, sixth with 53; India, seventh with 51; South Korea, eighth with 49; and China, ninth with 45.

ACGA, a group advocating for the adoption of good corporate governance standards in Asia, rates the 11 selected countries based on factors affecting good corporate governance, such as availability of appropriate regulations by concerned government agencies, enforcement of regulations, disclosure practices of publicly listed firms, and business ethical rules.

Ironically, the Institute of Corporate Directors (ICD) said it would push for the improvement in the country's rankings over the medium term by more aggressively promoting the adoption of more good governance practices in the corporate sector.

ANI expanding retail, logistics network

By Riza T. Olchondra

LISTED AgriVentures Inc. (ANI) is expanding its retail and logistics network to stabilize costs, maintain food quality and ensure traceability.

This capital expenditure for expanding the network of wet markets and logistics hubs is about P5 billion," ANI chair and CEO Antonio L. Tuvera said in response.

"The good thing about expanding our wet market channels is that it helps Filipino animal growers. When we sell more food products, farmers will have more options and they more because they know someone will buy their harvest."

About 70 percent of Filipino consumers still go to wet markets, according to market studies.

ANI has 20 outlets all over Metro Manila, including those in malls (market-in-a-box at Ballroom, Dinosaur, Mega Q-mart, Farmers Market and trading centers for fresh produce.

"We are expanding in Luzon and then Mindanao. There are still regions in the Visayas region," Tuvera said. He said the company had existing logistics hubs in Luzon and Mindanao that can be easily converted into wet markets.

To ensure product freshness and traceability, ANI is investing in refrigerated logistics hubs.

Sir Jason, ANI has a logistics center in Pulilan, Bulacan. "Our logistics hub will use in PTO or somewhere South near area," Ito said.

For Mindanao, ANI has one hub in Davao and one in Cagayan de Oro.

The company last year posted a 136-percent increase in revenue to P216 million from P91.3 million in 2010. ANI's consolidated revenue grew by almost 41 percent to P128.66 million in 2011 from P91.018 million in 2010.

Ayala Land homestarter bonds rated 'AAA'

By Dawne L. Lucas

A BOND issue of real estate giant Ayala Land Inc. yesterday received the highest credit rating from a local debt watcher, which said the prospective developer's strong financial performance made the securities attractive investment options.

In a statement, Credit Rating and Investors Services Philippines Inc. (Crisp) said it had assigned an "AAA" rating on ALI with a stable outlook.

ALI is currently offering a three-year, fixed rate "Ayala Land homestarter bond" worth P3 billion, with the first tranche of P1 billion issued on Oct. 31.

"ALI's market position is supported by its well known flagship projects that include the development of Makati as the country's premier commercial and business district," the ratings firm said.

It added that the property arm of the Ayala conglomerate had "excellent leadership in a superior and properly developable sector, which was marked by its dominance in the development of high-end subdivision lots and residential buildings.

Of late, ALI has also successfully established its central market presence that now extends to the middle income and affordable housing segments, the ratings firm added.

"Crisp assigns a stable credit outlook for ALI's issuer rating as [we] continue to believe that [the firm's] strong financial performance will continue and roll out of its new development projects will remain to leadership positions," it added.

The bond issue was recently approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission for a total offer size of P3 billion. The bonds give holders the option to build up and money to buy an Ayala-developed residential unit.

The bonds will carry a fixed interest rate of 5 percent per year and mature in three years.

Eligible investors, whether Filipino citizens or nonforeign individuals, may buy a minimum of P500,000 and in multiples of P100,000 thereafter. The minimum investment is P3 million.

Power Situation Outlook
for Friday, 2 November 2012

	Low	Grid	Mindoro
Luzon reserve (MW)	7,157	1,398	871
Luzon Peak (MW)	8,128	1,641	1,148
Luzon Reserve (MW)	1,312	683	-187

ROTARY CLUB OF MIDTOWN DILIMAN INITIATES LIGHTHOUSE OPEN 2012 TO HELP THE NEEDY

The Rotary Club of Midtown Diliman led the list of its stalwarts, President Steven Puhimpitakul and former Presidents Eric Macalo, Rafael Ike Ilagan and Jose Jesus Jr. of the Valley Golf Country Club in Antipolo last August 26 for the benefit of The Good Lighthouse Foundation (TGLF), the latter's partner in doing a number of community services, which include medical, dental, advocacy/service and relief programs.

The Good Lighthouse Foundation is the community ministry of the Lighthouse Bible Baptist Church in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City. Its programs commonly services among others are advocacy school (Lighthouse Academy), a values education advocacy, an outreach for the out-of-school youth, a center for human resource development and for relief and medical missions, the Community Assistance and Relief Endeavors (CARE). The Good Lighthouse Foundation is led by its chairman, Bishop Nicanor Maunes and president, Dr. Enrico Torres.

Radio and agriculture

By Ernesto Ordoñez

DESPITE rapid technological developments in the communications sector, radio remains a powerful medium, particularly in rural Philippines.

Its powers, however, has not been fully harnessed to propel agricultural development.

Radio has a rich history in the Philippines. We should build on its innovative ways to use radio to help small farmers and fisherfolk have been tried and proven. They should be replicated and expanded. If done, we will be able to support President's Noynoy Aquino's and Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala's goal of sustainable agriculture and a better life for our rural population.

Professor Elizabeth Enriquez (developmentcommunication.com) recently gave us a brief glimpse of Philippine broadcast history.

In 1922, an American known as Ellis Pedigree started test broadcasting with a 5-watt transmitter from Nichols airfield. Henry Hermanos followed her with a broadcast from their mansion that same year. This made Philippine radio the earliest in Asia, even ahead of Chinese radio by at least six months.

Most recently, Louie Ishiraq brought forward to our country the launched the Tambuli project with UNESCO funding of $25,000. It won the UNESCO rural communication prize, ranking first among 22 other international contenders. The Tambuli project a new "Voice of the Small Community for the Development of the Underprivileged."

COMMENTARY

In the winning objectives can be much part of today's radio programs. They use to provide local access to information, allow villagers to express themselves; link Filipinos together as a community; strengthen the sense of identity and transform the audience from mere receivers to participants and managers of a communication system.

Louie Ishiraq has continued his crusade to involve with the same passion in fused you Tambuli. He did this through dxMSN "Tu Kabukiran," a multistakeholder radio program from 4 to 6 a.m. every Saturday and Sunday. Why so early?

Unlike to the urban areas, small farmers and fisherfolk are already awake and working at this time. They can turn on their radios to their heroes when they wake up and bring them to the farm lands or seas where they source their livelihood.

This way they learn while they work. Ishiraq reports agriculture developments, advances on technical issues, and works his panel of agriculture experts, answers questions from all over the Philippines.

His program has catalyzed both the public and private sectors to combat the dreaded snail- insect infestation that threatens our coconut industry.

Ishiraq has used the radio even in fighting smuggling. Late November 2011, he announced over the national airwaves a partnership with Shamon Agrikultura and the Bureau of Customs. Farmers and fisherfolk can text (0918-930-2528) or e-mail (dxmsn@ymail.com) info on the following information: the goods being smuggled, where the smuggling is taking place, and the date of the alleged smuggling incident.

This information is immediately given to the Shamon Agrikultura, which processes this information and sends it directly to the Bureau of Customs. Successes in combating the and online smuggling have been recorded, thanks to the power of radio.

Another very helpful early morning radio program is Radyo ng Bayan's Musmal na Agrikultura. This is hosted by Professor Arsenio Balisacan, Dean Peñay Canuday believes technology is a key to agriculture development. His program focuses on inexpensive and very effective agricultural technology that can help the small farmers and fisherfolk.

Last December 2011, one example showcased immediate results. This is the segment on the profitable technology of barbequing. For just P15,000, a resourceful farmer can set up two barbeque cookeries. After the first year, the net income is P53,000—basic money alone. Another P2,000 can come from beekeeping byproducts such as pollen. Share the bees increase the coconut output by 30 percent due to cross pollination, this adds another 37,500. The total net income is thus P24,000.

Canuday's program brought this package of P15,000 to only P11,000. P11,117.6 is the attention of PCA Administrator Eufelito G. Fortes. Fortes has since made beekeeping a nationalist program for resource farmers with the appropriate funding.

Every Tuesday, Canuday includes an Ayanan Agribusiness report on key rice and agricultural issues. Farmers and fisherfolk can share phone in recommendations on what action can be taken to address these issues.

Philippine radio was the first in Asia, the first among 22 first technical contenders for the UNESCO Rural Communication Prize, and has done much to help farmers of yesterday. More public and private support should therefore be given to radio. This action will be especially helpful to our municipal mayors, who are primarily responsible for our agricultural development. We cause more resilient, adventurous and fully support radio as a key initiative in the full-scale modernization of our nation's agricultural development.

Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan
Contributing Editor Ria Francisco-Prieto

LIFESTYLE Fashion & Beauty

Why Octavia Spencer, Mo'Nique, Kim Kardashian and Kate Beckinsale go for Tadashi Shoji

By Cheche V. Moral

FOR A MAN who has made a career making clothes for "real women," it's somewhat bewildering to hear Tadashi Shoji raving in admiration for another Japanese fashion designer whose aesthetic is the precise opposite of his own.

"Usually I don't like Comme (des Garcons), but this fall season, that is unbelievably genius design," he said, his eyes lighting up as he gushed about Rei Kawakubo's fitted paper-doll runway collections for Fall 2012.

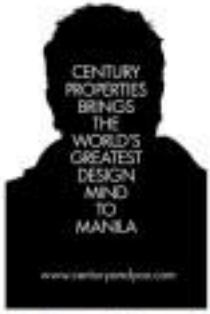
"Stuff like that don't usually impress me, but that was so genius! When I saw that, I thought who could wear that shape? That structure? That idea? Unbelievable!"

'The dress to be wearable. It's not just for the critics and the press. It's for every woman'

Fall collection

Shoji was in Manila last week to present his Fall 2012 collection on the invitation of Rustan's, where his line has been sold for the last 19 years.

www.G2



PAL chief financial officer Dominic Ang Tan Chi, BPI president Gigi Ponciano III

BPI SVP and Card Issuing head Globoo Go, BPI VP and Credit Cards Business head Elaine Gerona

PAL AVP for Product Loyalty Marketing Ria Corrien Domingo, PAL Commercial Group officer-in-charge Rahul Kollur

PAL VP for Sales Enrique Javier, PAL Product Loyalty marketing officer Ric Javier

PAL manager for E-Business Planning and Development Benjie Gilpuson, BPI VP and Prepaid and Debit Cards Business head Aileen Lumasag

PAL VP for Marketing Support Pablo Cruz

Gossiping society matron is the knife of the party

I WILL be a long holiday weekend, so what better way to spend it than going on a holiday trip and carrying a card that now sets current BPI Real Treats towards points to Philippine Airlines Mabuhay Miles, for as low as 5,000 points!

For added convenience, siblings, BPI and PAL have made it easier for everyone to purchase PAL tickets via the BPI My eShopper MasterCard, would you believe?

"As PAL extends its routes and increases its fleet size, we are delighted to have BPI as our partner in making sure that the runners always enjoy great value," Rafael Raflan, PAL chief marketing officer, said.

"With BPI being the first bank in Southeast Asia, and PAL being the first airline in Asia, we combine our years of expertise in creating that we deliver outstanding products and services that enhance our customers' experiences."

"This alliance between two of the country's biggest institutions go beyond the country's history," said Gilbert L. Go, BPI senior vice president and card banking group head. "It underscores BPI's thrust to continue and enable more Filipinos to travel to more places and be connected to the rest of the world. Together with PAL, we make it easier for Filipinos to realize their dream to travel."

Apart the applause, a great moment of "This partnership is great since I travel a lot, best thank your travelers as there to go to where I'm going, but longer to drive to the airport." Amen to that, sis!

Yes! Grab your BPI-PAL Card and see the world in style, making your travel more fun and worry-free, di bala, pabuggat!

Fashion show

Designers Julia Paras presented his custom capsule collection during the Private Style Review at the Peter Luxury Club.

He brilliantly crafted his designs around his muses. Each piece reflected both Paras' signature black and gold style and the individual personalities of his muses.

Hosted by Gino de la Peña, the show hit its peak when one of GMA Talent Center's top young singers hit the runway.

Eighteen year-old YouTube sensation

BPI SVP TG Limcaoco, BPI SEVP Gil Buenaventura

RJ LEDESMA and wife Vanessa

ONE Mega Groups' Maryll Yao, Sari Yap, Puran' model Cherrel Tiu

MAYFLIND Rufino, Claudine Lee del Rosario, Steve del Rosario

DESIGNER Julia Paras with his celebrity muses Julia Anne San Jose, Francheska Farr, Joella Ejercito, Nadine Chaleco and Sissi de la Peña

ROBBY Joseph, National Association of Independent Travel Agencies chair emeritus Robert Lim Joseph, Hexone Resorts Group chair Henry Chonoy, Julius Bautista, Dairine Cuyo-Dejos

Julia Anne San Jose showered praises on Paras' designs.

Meanwhile, Francheska Farr, grand champion of "Are You the Next Big Star?" was giddy about the event.

"I was excited and grateful to be chosen as one of Julia's muses," she said. "It's totally my style and knows my taste in clothes. Right now I want to take this show home!"

Others that graced the runway were Barbara Gladanel of Tomatoes, Monique Jamilang of Strip and Snowbunn Manila, Lisa Ejarito-Herrera of Party Perfect, and travel entrepreneur Chesca Alberto.

Also among Julia's elegant inspirations were sports enthusiast Angelique Lewis, Cheryll Tiu of Lifestyle Asia, the models Margot Anna Palafox de Rufino, and Jerika Ejercito of Ejercito, Inc.

Guests included socialite Ines Andi Manzano, Celine Lopez, architect Chel Guerra, Mommy del Rosario and night scene royals Erik Dan and Giff Reyes.

More info? E-mail info@artsyrepp.com.

Award for Boracay hotel

Hello dentistas are proud of Hexone Resorts Group chair Henry Chonoy, especially since his Boracay Regency Beach

JAQUE Dayrit-Roncon, Miguel Belmonte, Christine Dayrit, Henry Chonoy, Ralph Joseph

MUTYA ng Pilipinas first runner-up Emma Tiglao, Mutya ng Pilipinas Overseas Communities Marissa Tiburcio, Hexone Resorts vice president for sales and marketing Karl Chonoy, second runner-up Lorah Lacap, Mutya ng Pilipinas International Camille Guevara

FCCP director Karen Mascuñana, FCCP president Nina Lorenzo, Tenorio Libero, FCCP directors Yoly Ayuso and Rosita Lucero

SDV BABY Dmla. Pituog Tiongson, FCCP director Nono Po Lim, Gia Jamias

HELO'S Portia Santiago, FCCP directors Thelma Kiam, Grace Tiongco, Chloe Portugal

Resort and Spa has received the prestigious SEAL Award for the Resort during SEAL International Makati's 21st grand anniversary celebration. He also received the 22nd SEAL Tourism Personality Award.

The awards night was held at the newly renovated New World Hotel in Makati.

"Boracay Regency has exceptional features that make the paradise island an even more refreshing destination," said Hexone Resorts vice president for sales and marketing Karl Chonoy, pictured.

Situated at Station 2, Boracay Regency Beach Resort, the premiere five-star resort, has 203 Mediterranean-themed rooms. It has the largest beachfront on the island and a modern convention center. Its lavish bar Spa has received numerous reviews and awards from different organizations.

More info? Call Manila office at tel. 3231234, or visit www.boracayregency.com.

FCCP ball on Dec. 4

The Friends for Cultural Concerns of the Philippines (FCCP), a non-stock, non-profit organization founded in 1979 to nurture young musicians, held an afternoon get-together at the Rufino Pardo residence of Eva Navarro Libero.

Leading the pack of women of substance and stature, watch, was FCCP president Nina Santos Lorenzo. Guests and prospective members were treated to music, dancing and a delectable late afternoon heavy bar-chow catered by no less than Miller Harper Tan Flores.

Agenda was the organization's coming annual grand ball on Dec. 4, which will feature once-in-a-lifetime performance by Lea Salonga.

Hosting the affair were Nina Lorenzo, directors Yoly Ayuso, Karen Mascuñana, Nene Po Lim and Rosita Lucero.

Once the morning was over, the ladies did chatted about makeup, hairdos and years of gossip.

One of the witty ladies present lamenting to a gave grumpling, said: "It's incredible, Maurice, how she would always say she does not like to repeat gossip. But then, what else can you do with it?"

Well, I guess she will always be the knife of the party, di bala, pabuggat.

DOMINIC Up, Angelique Lo Gi, Lisa and Carlo Tirona, Puran' model Anna Palafox Rufino, Erik Cua

CELINE Gabrielson and Jenny Pressegol

CARIBE Bautista, FCCP director Mabel Abaya, FCCP vice president Nina Lozon, Bert Basilio, FCCP Annual Ball chair Hosta Basilio

CWC past president and FCCP member Linda Pastorfol, FCCP past presidents and FCCP director Lulu Castañeda

Why Octavia Spencer, Mo'Nique, Kim Kardashian and Kate Beckinsale go for Tadashi Shoji

From page C1

The Los Angeles-based designer auctioned three dresses during the visit to benefit the Philippine National Red Cross.

Shoji, 64, might not be a fan of flamboyant, a few years his senior and famous for avant-garde, deconstructed designs. But the Soroka, Japan-born fashion designer, who gained a lot of the media attention in this year's Hollywood awards season, did profess love for another Japanese designer: Issey Miyake. And it's easy to understand why.

"I like designers who are attuned to women's needs," Shoji said. "[When I look at a designer's clothes, I think] this guy's fun, he understands women, the customer's mind. Or, this guy is hot, you can tell that. I hope I can see other designers objectively. So I tell my assistant, I hope I'm not hot like this designer. That's the scariest part! 'Tadashi is hot!' 'Then I'm out of business!'"

That doesn't seem likely to happen anytime soon. Shoji, who set up his namesake label in Thornbury in 1982, is still riding on the streak generated by the Oscar 2012 buzz. He dressed up Supporting Actress winner Octavia Spencer ("The Help"), who landed on every Known best-dressed list.

Spencer, in fact, wore Shoji throughout the awards season, the plus-size actress getting nods each time from fashion pundits. She got the clothes off the rack: Tadashi Shoji is available in 9,000 outlets in 40 countries, including US department stores Neiman Marcus and Saks Fifth Avenue.

SASHA Baronne, Kate Beckinsale, Victoria Justice

TOP: TADASHI Shoji sketch for Spencer
Left: Tadashi Shoji, Benson Commercial Corporation president Zenaida Tantoco and Tadashi China general manager Qi Zhao Pan

TADASHI Shoji's latest collection

Mind impact

"Before the Oscars, she was just buying off the rack," Shoji said. "But the Golden Globe, that was the first custom-made dress. She made it on best-dressed lists. After that one, she began asking for different dresses. I sketched for her an Oscar dress and she loved it.

"That [last dress] said she was probably going to wear a bigger name after she started winning. And then she went on [to the Oscars] and she won again," he added, beaming. (A more affordable replica of Spencer's draped beaded ivory dress, about P50,000-plus, is sold at Rustans'. One original custom dress can cost $8,000. His clothes at Rustan's retail from P12,000 to about P40,000.)

Spencer is, however, not the first actress to wear a Tadashi Shoji dress and bag on Oscar trophy. At the 82nd Academy Awards, another shapely actress, Mo'Nique, clutched her Supporting Actress Oscar ("Precious") in a blue silk gown by the Japanese designer.

That same year, Oscar first-timers nominee Gabourey Sidibe also wore Tadashi Shoji throughout the awards season, including at the Oscars.

However, it was Spencer's Oscar win that had the most impact on the Tadashi Shoji brand. "That helped a lot," said the designer, or, who started showing at New York Fashion Week only in 2007.

But it has not been a conscious choice to dress up plus-size and curvier women, he said.

"I don't know!" Shoji said, grinning. "I think maybe the market doesn't have enough selection for plus-size women, so they tend to pick up our dresses."

Proportion and cut

Tadashi Shoji's dresses usually use materials that have a stretch, and employ strategic draping, ruching and pleating, to flatter the contours and hide the imperfect.

"[pay attention to the proportion and the cut. Can the woman move her arms? Can she move?" he said. "I think the uniqueness is on our cut, the fit, to make them comfortable. These movie stars, they're walking on the red carpet, and they cannot breathe. They sit for three hours in the award shows and the camera is moving, and then they can't move in the dress, but they have to smile. That's torture! When they wear our dresses they're so comfortable. When they're comfortable, they come back."

Artistic temperament

Shoji was a painter who studied Fine Arts in Tokyo before moving to LA to study fashion in the '70s.

"Details I pay attention to," he said. "My temperament is that of an artist. It takes time to create a painting. After sketching, I touch the pattern maker's bone to make it. Before I started my own business, I made all of my own patterns. After two to three days, the dress will come out. My temperament is suited to this profession."

Even as president of his own firm, Shoji has not yielded his sketchpad to underlings.

"I design. I do patterns sometimes. I supervise, and I do the research, all that stuff. Unlike other designers, I do everything. Others just sketch and give the work to others."

To be clear, Tadashi Shoji doesn't only sell in the Octavia Spencers and Kim Kardashians of the world; socialite-style celebrities like Bella Beckinsale and Roxy Krebler (aka George Clooney's current squeeze) have also been seen on the red carpet in Tadashi Shoji. In fact, the label is the official designer of the Miss USA and Miss Universe beauty pageants.

Showrooms

Shoji spends half of the year in Shanghai, where he's expanding his China business (this year, it opened two boutiques, in Shanghai and in the capital; four more are set to open next year). Headquarters remain in LA, while he has showrooms in New York, Tokyo and Beijing.

In Japan, his clothes are sold in top department stores like Mitsukoshi and Isetan, and high-end boutiques. He travels throughout Southeast Asia frequently to visit markets. His clothes are also sold in the Middle East, but he doesn't adjust his design-to-cater to specific markets.

The clothes are made in the US and China.

"Everybody asks me that, what's distinctly Japanese about me," he said with a chuckle. "I think it's the work ethic. I give culture to the clothes. That's maybe the Japanese-ness."

He added, "My company policy is for the dress to be wearable. It's not just for the critics and the press. It's for every woman. Every woman can enjoy life for two or three hours in a beautiful dress. She can feel pretty and happy. If I can help her feel that way, then my mission is done."

SM shoes and bags at Philippine Fashion Week

WITH HOLIDAY Travel at its theme, SM Shoes and Bags recently unveiled its latest collection in a solo show at Philippine Fashion Week and the SMX Convention Center.

Guests were taken on a journey with images of various destinations around the world serving as a stylish backdrop for SM's Pre to Resort models—Parisian, Safarista Maasai, Hibiscus, Tough Bella and Singer Rola.

The Parisian segment highlighted how the brand has taken on a global vibe with three new collections—Military Boots, Concise Pumps, and Oriental Chapter. It also featured versatile and trendy Tribal Bags and Fashion Functional Bags.

Military Boots featured lace-ups and buckles in a myriad of styles, from minimalist to playful. There were also ankle-length boots in both classic and bold colors.

Concise Pumps channeled the season's baroque sensibilities. The shoes came in regal jewel tones—emerald, purple and crimson, as well as elegant silver and gold.

HOLIDAY

SM SHOES C1

SM shoes and bags at Philippine Fashion Week

From page B1

The Oriental Utopian collection took one on the historic Express with cutout wedges, floral heels and tassel-accented shoes. Playful colors and eye-catching prints add to the Oriental mystique.

Parisian Shoes and Bags are available at all SM stores.

(TOP) The buzz on boots: laced-up, ankle-length...and buckle- and fur-accented, above|Courrier Pumps

Once beauty billboards, now stylish eco-bags

TechnoMarine and Philippine Coast Guard Trade-Up

They risk their lives to save those who are in distress at sea—even during inclement weather.

They risk their lives against lawless elements to ensure that every sea voyage will be safe and we are free to leave or travel.

They risk their lives when they expose themselves to toxic and hazardous substances to control and mitigate pollution of our one environment arising from either man-made or natural disaster.

They are the men of the Philippine Coast Guard and they have one sole mission: to promote safety of life and property at sea, safeguard marine environment and resources, enforce all applicable laws within the Philippine waters, and conduct maritime security operations and other activities in support of national development.

"Not so many people know that Coast Guard is a multi-mission maritime service, where its personnel also put their lives on the line in the performance of their respective duties," said Lino Dalis, Vice Commandant for Administration of the Philippine Coast Guard.

A day's work of a Coast Guardian is similar to a soldier preparing for war during peacetime. "When he is not out at sea or in port facing the challenges of his profession, a coast guardian prepares himself to be ready and fit to perform his most assigned task and ensure the successful completion of Philippine Coast Guard's mission," the Vice Commandant for Administration said.

With the increasingly uncertainty of the weather conditions, the crucial, straight-cut judgments of the Philippine Coast Guard has never been more important.

It is unfortunate, however, that the Philippine Coast Guard does not receive the recognition that they deserve. In spite of this, however, they continue to exude the passion for their craft.

Embodying a similar mission and vision, TechnoMarine has partnered up with the Philippine Coast Guard. For TechnoMarine, innovation is the rule, not the exception. This year, TechnoMarine introduces its boldest innovation in promotional activity to date: trade in an old TechnoMarine watch and level up to a new watch model.

Through this initiative TechnoMarine invites its consumers to join in and make difference while still enjoying the perks of being a TechnoMarine patron. For one good turn deserves another—give your old TechnoMarine watch in the outstanding Coast Guards of the Philippines, and in turn, TechnoMarine will give up to 40% off any new 2012 watch models. Non-functioning, authentic TechnoMarine watches are welcome to be traded (as long as the back case and mechanism are intact).

Collected watches will go to the Philippine Coast Guard.

With the famed equity of TechnoMarine as being in tune with water, performance time, telling and with it being very current and relevant, the partnership with the Philippine Coast Guard looks to be a very good match.

"The presence of time in any Coast Guardians pursuits is how, food, prompt a response can be made to a particular situation," said the Vice Commandant of the Philippine Coast Guard.

In essence, time is a unit of measurement between a situation and response. The shorter the time is the chances of a successful mission will be high, the longer the time is the probability of a disaster getting worst will be high as well.

The TechnoMarine Trade-Up promo is from October 1 to October 31 2012.

FLAWLESS, the country's pioneered clinic for face, body and medical services, recently launched a new campaign that turns its past advertising billboards into something useful for the environment – the Billing Project.

The project recycles billboards of Flawless' past advertising materials into stylish eco-bags. The billboard vinyl is a sturdy material that can withstand weathering, which means that bags made from this material will survive anything the average user can put them through. One billboard yields a large bag—roughly 40 ft x 20 ft vinyl can make up to 200 bags.

The campaign aims to bring high quality, relevant and affordable products to everyone while reducing waste in the environment.

"We are a responsible company that constantly seeks for ways to maximize our resources to do good," says Bobby Ty, Flawless CEO. "We are proud of this corporate social responsibility campaign because we designed it to make a big difference and a lasting impact on the lives not just of Filipinos today, but of future generations as well."

Besides the Billing Project, Flawless gives beauty and wellness aficionados this December workshop on their table. "What's in the Bag?" campaign.

Stay for "What's in the bag?" by constantly checking our website and Facebook and Twitter pages."

Get a free billing with every single purchase of P1,100 worth of Flawless products from Dec. 1, 2012, to Jan. 1, 2013.

Visit www.flawless.com.ph | Like Facebook.com/FlawlessBeauty or follow Twitter.com/FlawlessBeauty

2hU LIFESTYLE
Editor Thelma Simone San Juan Contributing editor Lalo Carlo San Juan

MAPAY Pangilinan congratulating rookie coach Ronnie Magsanoc

THE MD Lions celebrate moments after their win

CuTE couple after the game

Let's hear it for NCAA basketball

This was a season that was definitely for the history books

By Ray Simone Ortiga
Student correspondent, De La Salle University

THE NCAA has always been known as the "other collegiate league," always living in the shadow of the more popular UAAP. Little do people know that the older generations still claim that the NCAA was the top collegiate league of their time.

Things haven't changed much—the NCAA has a good season, but no one gives it to the limelight for too long, unlike the other league, which is jampacked with its news from elimination games. The Final Four of the NCAA barely gets enough attention.

Now a whole new game is being played. ABS-CBN recently got hold of the TV rights for the NCAA, and they were reportedly getting higher ratings than the other league being televised on Studio 23. The good part here is that the time slot is newer and a whole lot better, because it is on prime time. That could mean that even those who are not students who have nothing better to watch could switch channels and see one of the most popular sports in the country. Time slots could have contributed a lot to its rise in ratings—the basketball fans who arrive home from work or school.

The new face of the NCAA is much better than before. A lot of people expected the season to be just the same, with the strongest teams holding on to their spots

(ITS'S) BAN B2

BEAUTIES in their school shirts

BEDAN dad Kennedy Feria celebrating with his twin sons

MAN-BEDA Alabang college bands in full force

ANJO Careers all decked up

JUBILANT Red Lions fans

Let's hear it for NCAA basketball

From page B1

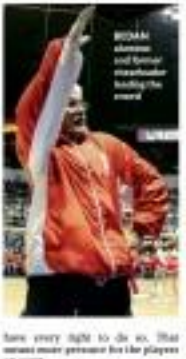
for most of the season with nothing much happening. But they were stay surprised with this one. The fact is, the games don't always turn out as expected.

Surprise

One example was the game between San Beda and University of Perpetual Help where, in the last few seconds of the last quarter, Desert Aztec of San Beda threw a Hail Mary from half court, which tied the game and sent it into overtime. University of Perpetual Help ended up winning the game, to the surprise of some basketball fans.

On the topic of some notable players, Art Vidal put on a show this year, shooting from the three-point range the whole season and even pulling in a buzzer-beater here and there. Kevin Alas, with his much-improved performance, came up with a 43-point game against San Sebastian in game 1 of the semifinals, generating a lot of noise.

Speaking of noise, the crowd in the NCAA has gotten way more intense. The cool truth is, the NCAA crowd had been considered fanatics, or in the "pro" crowd, sometimes you're away or never a school shirt—fans from other schools might gang up on you. Maybe they were just looking at it all wrong. The rival schools hungry-out jeers for a win, but they also want to make their opponents know that they're here, rubbing it in their faces because they have every right to do so. That means more pressure for the players on court.



People just have to understand that the competitiveness of the NCAA was not meant to be compared with that of the UAAP. But maybe people cannot help but be involved in the heated battle of these schools. That also includes online opinions and comments made by students, alumni and faculty. This happens in every league. Most of the people who watch the games live tend to be more vocal and sometimes very demonstrative with their feelings about their school winning.

This was a season that may definitely be this history books. The opening finals game was between San Beda College and Colegio de San Juan de Letran, who fought not only to win the championship, but to finally break their 14-all tie for total finals's basketball title won. San Beda ended up winning in a very dominant showing by blowing away their opponent in game 1 of the finals series.

A few hours afterward, the Internet (more specifically, Facebook) was filled with Intrenet memes, some from the Bedan community congratulating the teams. The disgusting part was seeing the Letran memes Facebook page showing us much disrespect before the end of the finals.

What changed that for everyone was a Letran student who posted a picture of the Bedan crowd...and in a move that surprised people, finished the school for an exciting finish series and held his fellow Letranites not to leave before they could sing their school hymn. That was a good sign of things to come, considering that the SBC-CLU match up was to silent a few years back.

The NCAA definitely put on a good show this year. People may want to watch and stand for talent from this league.

MM wearing three-peat shirt

THE SAN Beda Alabang high school cheerleading squad

HAPPY Jarrett Yvan Lucenico (left) and MVP Baser Amer (right)

CARMELO Lim, on his last playing year

SAN BEDA band at the bonfire celebrations

STUDENTS from San Beda Red

THREE guys for the three-peat

THE SAN Beda Alabang high school pep band

BIGMAN newcomer Mike Nzeko (second from left) with his students

KIDS posing with the San Beda staff

Having a blast

By Jillian Carpio
Student contributor, Ateneo de Manila University

IT'S FOUR o'clock on a rainy October day in Metro Manila, but it's evident that the rain won't keep the hundreds of people patiently waiting outside the Mall of Asia (MOA) arena from enjoying the evening's event.

Some of these people clutch small banners and wear matching T-shirts to show their support for the performers that night. Others have dyed their hair to outlandishly colors such as electric blue and bright pink. They smile and chat happily all during their excitement about one topic—the long-awaited concert that is mere hours away.

Inside the arena, a different scene is unfolding. Five men stand on the stage, testing their microphones and walking around, greeting the few fans that have been invited to watch their rehearsal warming. G-Dragon, the leader of the group, stands calmly on a golden Segway in vintage shades, quietly testing the foam that have come to show their appreciation before the show.

Taeyang, another member of this group, walks around and dances a move two feet away from the fans, touching their hands and singing happily for them.

It's the day of Big Bang's fifth Connect Tour in Manila, and everyone is brimming with anticipation for the concert. Big Bang is a five-member Korean boy group known for their unique hip-hop and pop music and for their unexpected sense of style. They have garnered a large fan base in the Philippines since their debut in 2006, but it is their first time to hold a concert in the country. Hundreds of ELFs flocked to the MOA Arena on Oct. 24 to show their support for their idols.

Upon being seated in the arena, fans began chanting the names of the members and screaming as their favorites were shown on the screen, where Big Bang's music videos were being played. These screams doubled in volume as the opening video of the concert began to play and the big dish covering the stage dropped, revealing the five members in separate cupolas, all clutching air mades and singing their album's intro song, "Alive."

The group launched into several songs, beginning with their 2007 comeback hit "Tonight." Big Bang's dynamic duet prompted the cheers of the audience and immediately enraptured the crowd. The sea of yellow—the yellow color emanating from Big Bang's official crown-shaped light sticks—swayed to the rhythm of the music and sang-a-long of Big Bang's songs, despite the language barrier.

Communicating with the audience

In between songs, the members of Big Bang took the time to communicate with their audience, speaking to them in English despite their difficulty with the language. The group was quick in compliment the Philippines, commending the beauty of the country and praising the crowd for singing the chorus of "Day by Day," one of their oldest hit singles, well.

What made this concert stand out among the other three concerts was the presence of a special guest in the audience, Sandara Park. Sandara, who was formerly a member of Star Magic in the Philippines, moved to Korea in 2007 and joined the girl group 2NE1 under YG Entertainment, the same entertainment company as Big Bang's. The boys also playfully talked about how Sandara starred there around the Philippines, with Seungri even saying, "Dropping to songs! Sara gara oo!"

In addition to this, the boys weren't afraid to show their playful side to the audience, repeatedly dissing the emcees, which was the longest among all of the Mow concerts so far. Seungri's ranking among the stage, filming the other members every action. This included TOP drumming Daesung with an entire bottle of water, Taeyang and G-Dragon chasing around onstage, and himself playing with a wet panda and blowing kisses.

The whole time, the group never stopped interacting with the crowd, including fans to their water bottle by showering them with water and by throwing their pajama to some members of the audience.

The show ended with the members of Big Bang each giving a personal message to the audience and thanking them for coming. G-Dragon interacted with the audience by trying to speak in Filipino, saying "Anchow Salamat? Gandang gab-i ni-ko-la? to kayo!" with a slight Korean accent. The members then walked off the stage one by one, but not before Taeyang grabbed TOP and asked him to dance one last time for the crowd. TOP's brief dancing act was the icing on the cake, as Big Bang fans know that TOP normally doesn't dance.

Samsung and 2thU gave away Big Bang tickets, and this lucky fan got the chance to write about the experience

TAEYANG is spotted **as the audience chants the song lyrics**

The entire event was a treat for fans in the Philippines, and it was well worth the six-year wait. Each member of the audience left the arena feeling much closer to Big Bang and without a doubt, Big Bang's debut Connect Tour in Manila is sure to remain a special night in everyone's hearts forever.

Fly high with your barkada in Sun Cellular and BlackBerry's Fun in the Sun video contest!

[illegible]

Limited-edition Daniel Padilla shirts launched

ENTERTAINER 2TOP Daniel Padilla likes taking things slow when it comes to his career, his private life and his personal style. A member of show biz royalty, the Padilla clan, Daniel is one of the hottest properties of ABS-CBN. His soap opera, "Ber Princess and I," where he plays Oscar de la Rosa, a scrapper-turned-lover to win the love of Kath (who better?), character Mikay Hagkit-ang or Princess Anya, is a leader in its time slot, registering at one point almost 40 percent in the overnight ratings of Kantar Media/TNS among Total Philippines 10-hour and Total Households.

Daniel's self-titled debut album released by Star Records last May sold more than 35,000 copies, earning for the young singer a platinum award.

That's why the release of Rom, which Daniel endorses, hit so close to home. There are no parameters. There are no frills. Rom just allows him to be who he is and show his true colors.

"For me, the brand is all about today style," says Daniel of Rom's signature "rebel" look. "Since it's really my style, I really find it easy to choose and wear their clothes."

Rom is known for infusing such unconventional elements as neon, lace, studs, leathers, bolts into its clothes; but is pure premium on comfort and style, as Daniel finds from the perfect blend.

"My style is rugged and easygoing, for as long as my shirt goes well with my shoes, then I'm good to go. It's that easy," says Daniel. "Depende on my mood. I'm more into plain shirts, or shirts with solid colors. Sometimes, I would wear a simple polo, sneakers and fave jeans. Sometimes I love wearing graphic tees. That's it."

Rom has come up with a limited-edition Daniel Padilla Tee Collection. Marked by graphic prints and dark-soil, the new collection allows Rom fans—both males and females—to "Feel the rocker style of Daniel Padilla."

Daniel Padilla Limited-edition tees are exclusively available at Rom Boutiques and SM Department stores. Visit www.romboutique.com.ph or like them on Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/Romboutique.

'Strictly formal' gets redefined

By Larry Levista
Contributor

At this year's Red Cross Ball, both the featured designer and the elegant guests opted for beauty in simplicity

SUDDENLY LAST Saturday night, there was a distinct game change in the way high society chosed, behaved and became style-minded. It was the annual Red Cross Ball, but the invites called it simply Red, and Manila's A-list was ready to rewrite the rules of fashion and civilized fun.

One look at Yeasa Valdez and Rayn Tiu's seventh chic Mark Cary Santiago gowns, and you knew the night would be more about the personalities and not the designer gowns. Some said it was long that the fashion stage was primed was (it was northbound for years) or that hostage was going to distill his haute couture into something completely different.

'Couture de force'

Santiago did not disappoint, and delivered a "couture de force" collection of pleated, folded and draped soft organza in black and white satin. With his 'abovestitial' he has thrown out all excess, beadwork and geometry 'marriage's new pantry was not yet structured, refined or strained—a grand departure from his signature style that was once the rage, copied by every other designer around.

As if it was collectively decided, the belles of the ball you see in these pages are redefining how to dress in strictly formal. They are elegant, sexy and confident, three attributes that are hard to string together in the same sentence. But portraits do not lie, as looks at these ladies signaling the dawning of a new age of ease, of the luxury of actually having fun when going to a gala. It simply by their is great beauty.

The International Red Cross Ball celebrates its 55th year this year—definitely the pinnacle of goodwill and high society in one endearing evening. This truly distinguished experience is steeped in tradition, with society gathering together to raise funds to honor the Red Cross and celebrate the triumph of the human spirit.

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ENTERTAINMENT Living Stars
Editor Bonnie D. Valarde

Fun times two

Double celebration for Sharon, Sen. Kiko and their little son Miguel

By Rayford San Diego Jr.

IT WAS double the fun for Miguel Samuel Moore, newest addition to the family of singer-actress Sharon Cuneta and Sen. Francis Pangilinan.

Saying that it was a "special day" for her lomsol, Sharon recalled that she spent a month prepping for Miguel's third birthday party and celebration last Saturday.

There were 13 food carts (from master Amie's pero-pero to Boathouse coffee, from fishball and siklam to corn dogs) at the venue, the Banyan Peninsula at Blue Leaf, Bonifacio Global City. Bloom's and Manny's Cakes provided the main fare.

A bubble show, mini bird and python show, plus performances by

PAGE 61 PASTOR Sen Chiz shows the birthday boy

FRANCIS Pangilinan

MIGUEL'S Thomas Train cake

JUDY Ann Santos RYAN Agoncillo

FRENCHESKA FARR

I LEARNED about E. L. James' "Fifty Shades of Grey" on television. It's a bestseller and I hear that Hollywood producers are searching for the perfect leads for a movie adaptation. It's an adult version of "Twilight." I recommend it because it's not the usual love story. The guy is a bit psychotic. I was hooked because the storytelling is good... not boring, and it kept me guessing what would happen next. Unlike other books, this one just kept outpacing me, making it never leave mind. It taught me that there are more sides to people than we readily see. It also made me realize how the past, present and future can change a person.

(Rayford San Diego Jr.)

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IMUS
TACLOBAN

ILOCOS NORTE
ANGELES

DUMAGUETE
CEBU

BACOLOD
ILOILO

Fun times two

From page F1

jugglers and mosmosyclists, were presented by Channing Howard, party specialists. Party theme was Thomas the Tank Engine Train, Miguel's latest obsession.

"He loves cars, too," Sharon said. "He knows by name different car models he sees on the streets," Sen. Kiko said.

Mel became the boy enjoys taking his toy cars apart, his parents said Miguel could be a budding mechanic or Formula One driver. As if on cue, Miguel toured distributing a toy motorbike, a gift from composer and movie icon Dompe.

At least 40 of the godparents were present that day led by Judy Ann Santos and Ryan Agoncillo.

The event was also meant to formally introduce Miguel to the public. "Last year, for [adoption] papers cause through," Sharon related. "Kiko and I decided to have one big party to celebrate everything." Indeed, she pulled out all the stops. "We want Miguel to know how proud we are to introduce him to our son."

She said her wish was for Miguel to grow up to be a "good man, like his dad." His dad's wish is for the kid to "become a man with a choice and deep love for God, family and country."

Both said Miguel's career. BC, Frankie and Mel shouldersly school's for him.

KC is Miguel's biggest fan, said Sharon, and "Miguel always tries to impress KC."

Any recommendations? @gmail.com

GRANDPOPS Carol and Lucio Agoncillo, Judy and Ryan's mom

"KINDNESS" and "courage" pray for Miguel.

FAMILIA PLANS Sharon and Kiko reminisce photos with Mel, Frankie and Miguel

BOND dedication unit

YOHAN, Judy and Ryan's daughter

QC MAYOR Herbert Bautista

SABRINA MANN

"SCOTT, a Shih Tzu, is seven months old. He's my cloth dog. All his names didn't start the letter S. He's sort of a replacement for my favorite shih Tzu that died recently. My parents got him for me because I was very depressed when it happened. I'm feeling better now. Pets are important because they're always cuddlers. I take care of Scott by brushing his coat regularly and making him take a bath every other day." **Text and photo by Manuel R. Diaz**

MOVIE TIME

GLORIETTA 4

1: WRECK-IT RALPH (3D)
2: SKYFALL
3: SKYFALL
4: LAWLESS / ARGO
5: SUDDENLY IT'S MAGIC
6: SKYFALL (3D)
7: A SECRET AFFAIR

GREENBELT 1

1: A SECRET AFFAIR
2: SKYFALL

GREENBELT 2

1: SKYFALL
3: SKYFALL (3D)
4: A SECRET AFFAIR
5: A SECRET AFFAIR
6: WRECK-IT RALPH (3D)
7: SKYFALL

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1: SKYFALL
2: SKYFALL (3D)
3: WRECK-IT RALPH (3D)
4: SUDDENLY IT'S MAGIC
5: A SECRET AFFAIR

AYALA CENTER CEBU

1: SKYFALL
2: SUDDENLY IT'S MAGIC
3: WRECK-IT RALPH (3D)
4: A SECRET AFFAIR

MARQUEE

1: A SECRET AFFAIR
2: SKYFALL (3D)
3: WRECK-IT RALPH (3D)
4: SUDDENLY IT'S MAGIC

MARKET! MARKET!

1: SKYFALL (3D)
2: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U JAMES
3: SUDDENLY IT'S MAGIC
4: WRECK-IT RALPH (3D)
5: SKYFALL
6: A SECRET AFFAIR
7: RESERVED

TRINOMA

1: SKYFALL (3D)
2: SUDDENLY IT'S MAGIC
3: WRECK-IT RALPH (3D)
4: LAWLESS / THIS GUY'S IN LOVE
5: A SECRET AFFAIR
6: SKYFALL
7: SKYFALL

ABREEZA

1: SKYFALL (3D)
2: WRECK-IT RALPH (3D)
3: SUDDENLY IT'S MAGIC
4: A SECRET AFFAIR

HARBOR POINT

1: SUDDENLY IT'S MAGIC
2: A SECRET AFFAIR
3: WRECK-IT RALPH (3D)
4: SKYFALL

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MARQUEE
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Hunk in a hurry

Kapuso actor Mikael Daez keeps it cool and simple

By Raquel San Diego Jr.
Photos by Rene Hombrado

OLD LAPTOP was casino and keyboard rests MacBook Air.

PHILIPS headphone and iPod Touch

COLOMBO men wrapper bag from Bora Bora Bora

HERE ? ACTOR Mikael Daez, young man in a hurry, dresses not to impress, but to express himself.

The former model has a keen fashion sense and describes his sartorial style as "laidback." And though he does not consider himself thrifty, he can be a "constant bento" at the mall.

"I buy only things that I need," he said, "but I treat myself to a good find once in a while."

He begs around a trusty gym bag because he spends long hours working out. "I lift weights. I don't use the treadmill because I need to bulk up."

Peace envoy

Mikael bit been named Peace Ambassador by the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process, along with ad.ds.m. Eje Quimco, Noel Cabangon, Christian Bautista, Aunt Jarthy, Glee V. Forybik, Brenk Ramos, among others.

Apart from the Kapuso albulurum soup "Sana sa Sona Ito," he is shooting the second movie, GMA Films' entry in the Metro Manila Film Festival, "Sosy Feels Asia"—a followup to his debut, "Temptation Island."

Trademark shirts

He keeps it cool and simple. He

KEY chain (royal seal, graduation and rental

Short cuts

Granted it is a priority, so he has stacks of shirts, a love pair is from Nordstrom.

Different shades

Mikael loves wearing shades, which he has in different styles and colors. "I have my diamond Ray-Bans, H&M aviator glasses and Converse wayfarers," he said. "Shades change a person's vibe."

Sporty jackets

He's expecting a brand new set of gear. On a recent trip to Hong Kong, he wondered into a Columbia store and found a "gorgeous" bodies jacket. "Luckily, it was on sale."

Slim jeans

He's partial to slim-cut jeans. it size 32, his fave lots! of Headspace jeans in his cabinet. "I am very particular about fit," he said. He recently treated himself to a pair of Vieva Jeans.

Shoe challenge

He's not a sneer soldier, just a "sometimes" guy, said he gets attached to old pairs." meaning his favorites are his Converse Chuck Taylors and Penshoppe sneakers. He also has a pair of Hight Jeans, "But I love Jee whatever boots, too, and Sperry boat shoes." He's a size 11, male.

NIKE baseball cap

EVH GLOVES for lifting weights.

CANON Innovaphoto camera

ALARM clock by Ito Ambiente

TRAVEL neck pillow and sleep mask

DUCKDUCK trucker jacket from Hong Kong now on sale.

DIFFERENT shades for ever-changing mood.

H&M PAIR

PENSHOPPE shoes

CHUCK Taylor Converse

EIFFEL / Souvenirs

Gym accessories

He usually wears baseball caps—like the Nike London cap he picked for this shoot. "I don't like headgear that looks too juggish or preppy," he said.

For lifting weights, he has to control in a good pair of gym gloves.

Fave bags

He loves his Penshoppe gym bag so much, that he got his brother and sister the exact same one.

The grosgrain of the Bottega duns Sfas brushed, which he covered for his old Equator drone "World Premiere," was a white messenger bag with zoo prints. "You are supposed to color the bag with marker pens. It's like a coloring book for adults."

Travel souvenirs

The items allowed him to travel all over. He brought home lots of souvenirs, like a keychain from Paris, a bag from Ibiza, bracelets from Mar del Plata (Argentina) for 15, a 10-round bill and T-Shirt from South Africa.

A conversational piece, he has kept his chicken pox scar intact on purpose. "I like the brief memories it has given me."

Grooming kit

Mikael can be finicky about hair and skin care products. In his grooming kit are L'Oreal Homme Cyane Force, Bioluxe Ultra UV No 4 Active Gloop Modeling Clay and Aloe Vera.

New gadgets

His laptop was stolen in a mall recently, so he bought a MacBook Air. "I have a lot of gadgets," he said. He has a PlayStation3, a Nintendo DS, iPod Touch and a Philips headphone and iPhone.

He has kept his old Nintendo Game Boy Advance in its black and white. It's a classic, he said.

SHORTS BELAO the cam is an all-purpose container

GROOMING essentials.

HUGO Boss and Dolce & Gabbana art backup event

MIKAEL Daez shows off the Tiki Man from Bent-A-Wit's and other favorite things.

ENTERTAINMENT
Editor Emmie G. Velarde

Lea Salonga 'very excited' to see who the next Kim will be

'It was darn awesome working with him'

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD
Rubert U. Neptador

LOS ANGELES—Saying she is "very excited" to see who the next Kim will be in next year's West End revival of "Miss Saigon," **Lea Salonga** also told us she is "ecstatic" that Cameron Mackintosh and his team have decided to hold auditions in the Philippines.

In an e-mail interview, the very kind Kim sounded very enthusiastic about the Manila tryouts on Nov. 17 and 18. She just finished a successful run of the stage musical "Allegiance"—about how Japanese-Americans were forced into concentration camps during World War II—at The Old Globe in San Diego, California.

We grabbed the chance to ask Lea about her castle, George Takei, who is, at 75, one of the coolest gay/social/fun planet. He is a social media superstar whose spread square many generations of fans. George's Facebook account, where he posts the most amusing photos, memes and status updates, has a staggering 2.8 million "likes." According to Lea, George is determined to bring "Allegiance" to Broadway. We hope that happens.

Lea updated us on her other "Allegiance" costar, Telly Leung, and her daughter Nicole. Below are excerpts from our interview with the commanding performer who commands in Skipper-ese to regulate her role in "Lord of Carnage":

What are your thoughts on Cameron Mackintosh holding Manila auditions for the West End revival of "Miss Saigon"?

Oh my goodness, I'm ecstatic! The Philippines was a wellspring of talent for many of the "Miss Saigon" productions in Europe (London, Stuttgart, Amsterdam). I'm very happy that Cameron has decided to return to the Philippines to find talent for the West End revival. Of course I'm very excited to find out who'll be cast as Kim.

More on the event "important"

also A3

Into Thill red carpet. Lea Salonga with George Takei (left) and Telly Leung

GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS

A. GIPPA

PUGAD BABOY BY PAL LARGO

DICK TRACY BY JOE STATON AND MIKE CLARK

LOVE MOOTS BY ELIZABETH HOWARD

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

KIKO MACHINE BY FRANK ABRERA

SEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

HUTTS BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY

DUSTIN BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER

TULDOK BY MARA COLL

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS CORNEJO

TAU BORA TAURUS Many of you are going through changes and transitions in your love life. Whether you need to let go, you often have difficulty making decisions. In your personal life or career matters, you feel you are in control or having power and say. It is time to make your personal plans. Some husband with for about love cases will threaten or tend to make more for something.

Birthdate of: Lea Lano, musician; Mark Antonello, Queen of France; Anne Hathaway, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a very silly, lazy, gossipy day, which is why shortages, interruptions and petty annoyances are set for the smaller. Nonetheless, you'll enjoy talking to others.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is a good day for important negotiations. Don't spend money on anything important, and do not agree to any investments. Listen to others and make up your mind yourself.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This is a busy day, so organize the day carefully. Although you might feel disoriented, don't panic or hesitate; or make promises to others. Don't hesitate anymore. (Just read more.)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Keep to your routine today. Do not expect new information or developments. You might want to change your mind about something. If so, wait and someone to see if this is really what you want.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Keep good times with friends romantic. Good time. Leo21 to 22, and Keep things light. Don't agree to anything important.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Virgos is particularly will notice you today — ideally, for something positive. Also helps. Just be aware of this. Do not agree to anything important, and do not agree to any deadlines. Listen to others and make up your mind yourself.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You'll be delighted if you can do something different today, because you don't want to be bored. Travelers, travel with your normal routine. Chance up a little!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You're more day for romance. Don't get misguided regarding friendliness with, relation or signing anything about shared property or debt. Keep these in focus until tomorrow.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Because there is a good moment in the air today, you'll know fulfillment in romance, love and friendship. Harmony, avoid impatience sometimes is unpleasant.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is a really lucrative day for a work. Mixtapes, misunderstandings and delays will really impact your efficiency and productivity. Just be patient and avoid procrastination.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This is a wonderful one when day for it your. It's easy to put a new plan on things or are there is a new light. Enjoy romantic liaisons, sports and entertainment with children.

PISCEANS (Feb 19 to March 20): This is a lovely day to day to sing out at home and surrender. Interest at home if you can. It's not day-to-day routine back today.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SUDOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

1	6	2	8	5	7	4	9	3
5	4	8	3	9	1	7	2	6
9	7	3	6	4	2	5	8	1
6	1	5	7	2	3	8	4	9
4	8	9	5	1	6	3	7	2
2	3	7	4	8	9	1	6	5
8	5	1	2	3	4	6	9	7
3	9	4	1	6	5	2	3	8
7	2	6	9	7	8	9	5	4

Concepts Sudoku

			1			6		
	3		2		6	9		
							5	3
	7				1		4	
3				7				6
	5		3				9	
5	9							
		1	7		4		2	
		4		9				

Difficulty level ★★★★

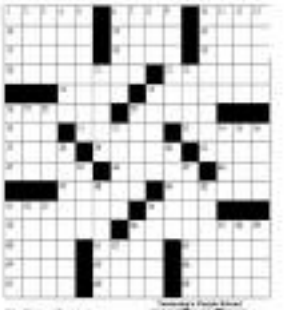
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1. Decent enough
6. Name in tights
10. Muscle pain
14. Type of word
15. Mark
16. Wear a tuxedo
17. Part of UK: Abbr.
18. Person who lives in a bunny
19. Popular magazine
20. Popular food on TV
22. Tiered
23. Lumps of soil
24. Bygone treasure-seeking ships
25. Name
26. Name in tights
28. Model fish
29. Italian-born architect
32. Actor Hopkins
34. Wonderful grape
37. Words before sand or sand
38. Siberian
39. Physical outing
42. Pedicle
44. Unsavory
45. Unsolicited connection
47. Lying around
48. Chocolates
51. Brown
54. Best (1 across)
56. Meat
58. Bermuda excitement
60. Cultural base
61. Fruit-flavored drink
62. Spotted horse
63. Biblical weight
65. Turnout
66. Name on TV's "Cheers"
67. Pilot weapons
68. Historical times
69. Lake-region farmed plankton

DOWN

1. Headgear
2. Reaction
3. Wall-to-wall
4. Pre-K
5. Grandparent's case
6. Bored
7. Commons and others
8. Bygone treasure
9. Photocopy or send by fax
10. Mini-hamper
11. Nautical
12. Parachutist's concerns
13. Jewish judgment
21. Start of a counting rhyme
23. Ski wear
25. Blood supplier
26. Casino experience
27. Cable choice
30. Make over
31. Mosaic materials
33. Ancient Greek region
35. Ancient Greek region
36. Ancient Greek region
40. Miscellaneous
41. Miraculous working
43. Famous Lucas
46. Tapir
49. Motion diagram
50. Problems bill
52. Practice
53. Zoo ___ economy
55. Bubble wig
57. Pet
59. Persona non ___



Lea Salonga 'very excited'...

From page F1

question: What was it like to perform with George Takei, an icon and social media superstar?

George is one of the funniest people I've ever met, and one of the hardest working actors I've welcomed in auditions. Because "Allegiance" has been around so long, I see him as a colleague and friend. But when he gets that curtain call at the end of the show, and I see the flowers of fans outside, that's when I realize how big a deal he is. It was darn awesome working with him. I was very privileged.

Who is on Facebook more often, you or George?

That distinction may just belong to George!

What's your most interesting George Takei moment so far?

It was more of a "moment" moment. Our first reading of "Allegiance" was in mid-2009, and the first rehearsal was at George's house in Hancock Park. George's husband Brad met me at the corner of a nearby street (I got lost). Once I met George and our team in his living room, I had to put out my Facebook that I was actually in the house of Sulu (George's character in the TV series "Star Trek"). My Trekkie friends were livid!

What's the most moving story that George has told you about living in an internment camp?

The one about the day he and his family were thrown out of their Los Angeles home. He talked about his mother being the last to come out of the house. In one arm was George's baby sister, and in the other, a huge and heavy quilted bag. Years afterward, George later knew it's somewhere that's seared into his mind.

The indignities suffered by George and the 120,000 Japanese Americans interned—it's a blemish on American history that isn't talked about as often as it should. Hence, the importance of this musical, and how determined George is to get it to Broadway.

How was "Allegiance" different as an experience from your previous musicals?

I think it was the first time that I felt real ownership of a piece of original material. I worked on "Miss Saigon" and "Flower Drum Song" (the David Henry Hwang script was new so I consider it original material in a way), but on "Allegiance" we were truly encouraged to give input on our characters, situations, orchestrations. The process was organic. My children feel like we were just performing another person's piece; we were active participants in its creation.

Critics praised your performances and songs like "Higher" "The Things That Matter Most" and "Gaman." Which "Allegiance" song best resonated with you?

All of them in their own unique ways connected with me. "Gaman" is about dignity in the face of hardship; "Higher," about Sue finding herself; "The Things That Matter Most," about the importance of family; and "Betrayed," about when everything goes to c***. It is probably the most emotionally challenging and taxing piece in the show. I also love "Secrets' Closures," as I believe that the audience will give everyone a second chance at something good if deserved.

Let me state the obvious... your voice and Billy Lunny's are among the most beautiful in musical theater.

Billy is like a little brother to me. We met on the Broadway production of "Flower Drum Song" (his first Broadway show). He was another cast of Cameron Mackintosh, talented and optimistic. He is an incredible performer and a great guy. I'm awed by his talent and work ethic, and his seemingly boundless energy. His voice is gorgeous.

Please give an update and an anecdote or two about Maddie.

She is one precocious 4-year-old—very energetic, smart, loquacious, curious, keen to learn. She can read pretty well now for a kid her age, which makes me very happy. She's a lot of fun to be around. And not a bad conversationalist, either!

She's willing to try new things—she took a couple of golf lessons during our time here in fact (things, like, helped decorate some dessert, went up on stage for a magic show in the audience thought she was part of the act!), and just got a new haircut, cuz she had been requesting for a while.

What's next for you?

Head to Singapore for "God of Carnage" (your cue as in Manila). My whole month of November has no singing in store, and I'm actually looking forward to the respite. E-mail bythebay@inquirer.net or tweet @bythebay. Follow how at http://www.inquirer.net/regularblogs.

MAGGIE Salonga Chiao was described by the proud mom as a "precocious 4-year-old," willing to try new things like decorating this dessert.

MEGAWORLD Lifestyle Malls
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

NEWPORT CINEMAS
1 Wreck It Ralph
10:00am • 11:00am • 1:00pm
3:00pm • 5:00pm
Skyfall
7:00pm • 8:45pm • 12:40mn
1:30am • 6:20am
2 Skyfall
8:00am • 11:45am • 2:30pm
5:15pm • 8:00pm • 10:45pm
1:30am • 4:20am
3 Skyfall
8:20am • 12:10pm • 3:00pm
5:50pm • 8:40pm • 11:30pm
2:20am • 5:10am
4 Suddenly It's Magic
9:00am • 11:25am • 1:50pm
4:25pm • 6:55pm • 9:30pm
12:15mn • 2:40am • 5:05am
Ang Probinsyano Ko
Ben Adams
Linda Bo
Broadway Queen:
Part 2 of
Mayumi M.
Liberyn Rafa
Queen Bee 15
BOARD ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE
DIGITAL

SAN MUGUEL CINEMAS
1 Secret Affair
7:00pm • 9:20pm
Ariga
9:40pm • 9:20pm • 11:50pm
2 Tikbi: Anang Chronicles 2D
2:10pm • 4:30pm
Skyfall 2D
6:50pm • 10:00pm
3 Skyfall
2:50pm • 6:10pm
9:20pm • 11:30pm
4 Suddenly It's Magic
2:20pm • 5:00pm
7:20pm • 10:00pm
5 Wreck It Ralph
1:40pm • 4:00pm • 6:10pm
8:20pm • 10:30pm
6 Skyfall 2D
1:30 • 4:50pm
7:50pm • 11:00pm
7 Skyfall
1:00pm • 4:10pm
7:20pm • 10:30pm
Upcoming events at EASTWOOD CITY
Iyanga Cain (LIVE)
Jack TV's Jack n Roll
Martin Nievera (LIVE)

CINEMAS
1 Suddenly It's Magic
10:30am • 1:00pm • 3:30pm
6:40pm • 7:40pm • 10:00pm
Secret Affair 3D
10:00am • 12:00pm • 2:00pm
2 Skyfall 2D
4:00pm • 7:00pm
10:00pm
3 Wreck It Ralph 3D
10:20am • 12:40pm
3:00pm • 5:20pm
7:40pm • 10:00pm
4 Skyfall
10:30am • 1:30pm • 4:30pm
7:30pm • 10:15pm
LUCKY CHINATOWN
FORTUNE Snack Fraction
Pancit Noodles Cuisine
Now 11 • 1PM
VENICE PIAZZA AT MCKINLEY HILL
Jericho LIVE!
Now 11 • 1PM
Martin Nievera (LIVE)
Now 11 • 1PM
Check out more fun entertainment offerings at Lucky Chinatown Cinemas
Lucky Chinatown Cinemas

FROM "Walang Imposible sa Puso ng Kapuso": At left, Christmas in a rural community at home ("Bisaya") and a Pinoy Christmas abroad ("Manila")

GMA celebrates Yuletide magic

ALL THINGS are possible if we believe in the magic that the Yuletide season brings. This is what GMA Network tells its viewers via its Christmas campaign this year. "Walang Imposible sa Puso ng Kapuso," which premieres on Monday, Nov. 5 on "24 Oras," thought-out acoustic hear-back-to-yesgrandmother, the Kapuso Station takes viewers to "a special place where miracles become reality." "I now truly understand the true spirit of the holiday. With this campaign, the network wishes 'no bring both the fun greater joy that giving brings.'

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SKYFALL

007

NOW SHOWING

007

PG

Competition opens playing field

> 'There's only so much that money can buy... what you really need are good people working for you,' says TV exec Rikki Escudero

By Nestrel R. Cruz

MAGDALENE City—"Competition is always good for television...in the sense that it opens the playing field for more people," according to GMA 7 vice president for regional TV Rikki Escudero.

The TV executive recently told reporters about the Kapuso network's plans to strengthen its regional and beef up its programming in the provinces.

Escudero, also head of the network's news and public affairs operations production services, said he considered ABS-CBN a worthy competitor because "it doesn't sleep ... [and] doesn't allow itself to be beaten by its other [rivals]."

She added that the entry of a third broadcasting network, TV5, in the race for regional supremacy was likewise "a welcome challenge."

"At the end of the day, when you've already put up your facilities, you must [through strategy]" she told media over breakfast at the Plaza Hotel in this city.

P65-M upgrade

GMA 7 recently spent P65 million on the expansion of its signal in the Negros region alone. "I always tell my team members that the last battle will be fought in the trenches of regional television," she said.

With Escudero was AVP for regional engineering operations Reed Reyes, AVP for video and marketing for regional TV Oliver Amoroso, GMA TV-Visayas sales and marketing officer Tess Magbojos-Fernandez, corporate communications senior manager Jojo Aquino and SVP for VHGS (transmission) regional engineering department Elva Ancheta.

She said the future of TV lay in its local content. "At making sure you have the right program for the right audience ...[because] news is local."

She elaborated: "This means that although there is still a need to find out what's happening nationally, what's important for people in the provinces are the events happening there."

Regional entertainment

Escudero cited the case of the coming 2013 elections, which the network is gearing up for. She said: "What's important in Cebu is whether the mother Annabelle Rama would [run] against former governor Gwen Garcia or Mar. We also want to know how the Recaptions would fare in General Santos City and Barangaroi. That's what regional TV will contribute to the nation as a network."

Her Escudero, regional entertainments shows are equally important. "The only problem is coverage issue[which] is to support the programs," she pointed out. "We recently learned that they get really excited with festivals and visiting show biz celebrities."

As a result, GMA 7 now positions all-in-one TV specials that feature highlights of festivals, like the recently concluded MassKara.

"This is also for viewers in Leyte and Mindanao who would want to see what happened in the Visayas. It [gives interest and, eventually, tourism.]"

Escudero added that the network likewise helps discover exceptional performers from the regions. To mark the conclusion of the Bandillo Festival, GMA 7 organized the talent search "DramaRama," which is now on its second year.

She said a group of 7-year-old boys in mall costumes will be featured on the TV special. "They're really good at synchronized dancing. The goal is to show that talent doesn't come only from Manila," she stressed.

Other performers during the "MassKara Festival Ruptura Night" held at the Bacolod Public Plaza were Mark Bautista, Geoff Eigenmann, Rochelle Pangilinan, Mark Herras, and "Protege" grand winners Jerie Gonzales and Thea Tolentino. The TV special will air on Nov. 11.

BIANCA King serenades some in audience.

MARK Bautista holds it out.

JULIANN Ward charms Bacolod.

The challenge

GMA 7 started its regional permissions in 2005. With TV5 also going regional, Escudero predicted this would pose a challenge for the two major networks (GMA 7 and ABS-CBN) since TV5 is "very well-funded."

"However, there's only so much money can buy. What you really need are good people working for you," Escudero stressed.

She added: "GMA 7 believes in people are its best assets. It hates only the best for the job. That is where TV5 will have a problem. Who else will it hire when this industry is very small? There are only a few good people."

E-mail: nestrel@inquirer.com.ph

Regents Theatres Cinema 10 Cinema 4 Cinemas 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Cinema 4

PLAZAMAGIC CINEMA

SKY FALL IN 3D 12:00, 3:10, 6:20, 9:30

SKY FALL 12:00, 3:10, 6:20, 9:30

SKY FALL 1:00, 3:30, 6:40, 9:50

WRECK IT RALPH 1:40, 5:40, 9:40

A SECRET AFFAIR 12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:50

A SECRET AFFAIR 1:40, 5:40, 9:40

SHIVER 12:30, 3:45, 9:00, 11:15

SUDDENLY ITS MAGIC 3:30, 9:50, 11:15, 6:40

THEY RUN IN LOVE WITH YOU MORE 1:00, 3:10, 9:20, 11:30

SUDDENLY ITS MAGIC 1:00, 3:30, 9:15, 6:40

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"PARTY Pilipinas" troupe members get into the festival groove.

Tips on food and wine pairing

By Daniel Blas

WHEN pairing food and wine, the goal is synergy and balance. The wine shouldn't overpower the food, nor should the food overpower the wine. Think of wine as if it was a condiment—it should complement the food. Wine drunk by itself tastes different than wine with food, because wine acts on food similar to the way a spice does. Acids, tannins and sugars in the wine interact with the food to provide different taste sensations. Wine can enhance the flavors of food.

Start your journey to becoming the next master of wine!

Congratulations to all WSET Level 3 Graduates!

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2	Cabarrus, Inez	Channel Operations Manager	Unhooked Mountain Dive and Soup
3	De Belen, Eunice	Events & Marketing Manager	Japanese Restaurant
4	Bala Cruz, Bernie	Consultant	Wine Story and WASEC Philippines
5	Gonzales, Dad	Food and Beverage	Holland American Lines Inc.
6	Gonzalez, Glenn	President	De La Salle College of Saint Benilde
7	Lukmanto, Joy	President	Daily Fresher and Center for Asian Culinary Studies
8	Ventura, Cielito	Store Manager	Wine Odyssey Inc.
			Healthy Options

Glenn Mack with level 3 students

Sentimentals approach

Blind tasting/Smith

Participants of WSET Level 3 class

Tips on food and wine pairing

From page B1

A good match will bring out the nuances and enhance the flavors and unique characteristics of both the food and the wine. Memorable food and wine pairing is achieved when you find similarities and/or contrasts of flavor, body (texture), intensity, and taste. Above all, don't stress over the perfect food and wine pairing. The best pairing is good food, good wine, and good company. Friends and loved ones are the most important ingredients. Let's begin with some of those suggested rules-of-thumb to use as guidelines, and then follow that with a discussion of why certain flavors are found in, or are more dominant in certain wines.

Ten rules-of-thumb for food and wine pairing

1. If you are hiking wine as a gift to a dinner party, don't worry about matching the wine to the food unless you have been requested to do so and have enough information about what a host is serving to make an informed choice. Just bring a good wine, think quality of food and wine. A great dinner party with multiple courses of mediocre food and wine is always less a better wine than handing out on the grill with chips in a bag.

2. When you're serving more than one wine at a meal, it's customary to serve lighter wines before full-bodied ones. Why wines should be served before red wines? Because tannins in the red wine tend to be accentuated by the taste of sweetness in the food that is then one month the sweet dish with a modestly sweet wine. Lower-alcohol wines should be served before higher alcohol wines.

3. Balance of flavor (symmetry): Pair light-bodied wines with lighter food and fuller-bodied wines with heavier, more flavorful, richer and better dishes.

4. Consider how the food is prepared. Delicately flavored foods—poached or steamed—pair best with delicate wines. It's easiest to pair wines with uncomplicated, unadorned food—steamed, grilled, roasted or sautéed. Pair the wine with the sauce, seasoning or dominant flavor of the dish.

5. Match flavors. As with the Pinot Noir grape will go with mushrooms and the grapefruit/citrus notes of Sauvignon Blancs goes with fish for the same reason—first known flavor.

6. Balance sweetness. Red, because of pairing a wine with food that is sweeter than the wine, although I do like Pinot noir with Cabernet Sauvignon. Opposing flavors can play off each other, creating new flavor sensations and enhancing the palate.

7. Consider pairing opposites. Very hot or spicy foods—some Thai dishes or hot curries for example—often work best with sweet wines. Opposing flavors can play off each other, creating new flavor sensations and enhancing the palate.

8. Match by geographical location. Regional foods and wines, having developed together over time, often have a natural affinity for each other.

9. In some Europeans' concept the best wine is reserved for the finest course. Red wines go well with cold to sharp cheese. Pungent and intensely flavored cheese is better with a sweet wine. Goat cheeses pair well with dry white wines, while milder cheeses go best with Chardonnay and wines, soft cheese like Camembert and Brie, if not over ripe, pair well with just about any red wine including Cabernet, Zinfandel and Pinot Noir.

10. Adjust basil flavors to better pair with the wine. Sweetness can dull well as more the intensity of tannins and astringency in wine, making it appear less bitter, stronger and less fruity. High amounts of acidity in food will decrease awareness of sourness in wine and making it more robust and mellow—more sour wine will taste sweeter. Bitter flavors evoked in some the perception of fullness, tannic elements in wines. Sourness and salt in food suppress bitter taste in wine. Salt in food can cause down the bitter taste and astringency of wine and many drinks sweet wines taste sweeter.

Flavors found in wines

The basic flavors that wines in food are also found in wine which is, after all, another type of food. They are sweet, sour (tart, acidic), bitter (quick-ly), and salty (not usually detected in wine). Which aren't found in wine, but affects flavor is: In addition, wine has alcohol which adds an unsweet body, making the wine feel richer. The organ that is present in grapes is converted during fermentation to offering degrees. A wine with very little residuum is called "dry." Sweet wines are sweet, Chenin Blanc, many Rieslings and Spetzesans. Sweet red wines include Lambrusco and Port. It is fish a acidic—citrus or vinegar—often an acidic wine would be appropriate, although a lightly acidic dish can be had, served with a lightly sweet wine. Acidic white wines are Sauvignon Blanc and most sparkling wines. Acidity is often matt-sublimes, so sparkling wines generally pair well with rich foods but less than sure wines such as meat and salmon. Tannins from the skins and sometimes stems of grapes—and the oak barrels used for aging—are the bitter or astringent substance in some red wines. Tannins mellow with age and are one of the components that add complexity to a mature wine. Foods with a pronounced bitter note or bitter herbs will make a wine seem sweeter and less tannic. Bitter red wines include Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Zinfandel and Syrah.

Alcohol gives wine a sense of body and weight, the higher the alcohol, the more full-bodied the wine. Rich meat, fish or chicken dishes that include cream are well suited to full-bodied wines (13–15 percent alcohol) whereas light, simply prepared and flavored dishes pair better with low-alcohol wines (7–12 percent).

Daniel Blatt is director of beverages and head sommelier of Makati Shangri-La, Manila. As a certified and internationally recognized wine sommelier, Blatt has had more than 20 years of experience in the luxury hospitality industry, including eight years as head sommelier in various hotels around the globe. Daniel Blatt brings with him an extensive knowledge and expertise in wines and beverages. He is a Canadian native who has traveled the world wine and has enjoyed wine making first hand in his many visits to the wine countries.

DANIEL Blatt

Sweet companion for sweet success

HONG ranking the happiest people in the planet, Filipino knows how to creatively celebrate sweet successes, whether big or small. We enjoy holding and attending parties, mingling with family and friends, and feasting on food and drinks.

"It is innate in our culture. Spending time with family and friends is essential to every Filipino. We find reasons to celebrate the smallest successes or achieve, regardless of the significance," shares Edward Gilles, product manager for Grille wines in Empresario Bacolod, Inc.

But Gilles believes that celebrations can be made more memorable and meaningful when wine is served. He said that offering wine in parties or other celebrations symbolizes the grandness of a particular event. People have always associated wine with luxury, and pouring it in a martini symbol, which is why having it be a particular occasion suggests that the event is meaningful and special.

The wine drinking market in the country is growing but Gilles observes that the preference is not because it is rich, explaining further that since drinking has become widely accepted in the Philippines because of the Pinoy's "sweet tooth," where most pastry sweet wines over dry wines. Under-supplemented that due to the economy, only wines in moderate market and sweet wines available in the market so Pinoys can celebrate events in a more special way without compromising their taste buds.

Bordeaux-Gilles, Empresario Vintage Rosé Sweet led to be the Philippines so that Pinoys encourage "what a real sweet red wine should be." Unlike blushes and red wines, that particular "fusion" recommended to be consumed "on the rocks." The pairing complements the rich, deep notes and of berry-like drinks to enjoy its sweet taste in the smoothest way possible, perfect for a tropical country such as ours.

To what Pinoy pairs, pause as Gilles and's suggested sweet treats. Rosé Sweet Red to desserts and its chocolaty current, with hints of vanilla, bright cherry and wild raspberry flavors, bursting with flavor and aroma, and with the right alcohol content. "With Rosé Sweet Red, you'll discover a different kind of sweetness, that of a real sweet red wine, which complements the sweet, meaningful, and special bonding moments we love to share with others," says Vincent Torres, managing director of Empresario De-Villers.

Because of its different kind of sweetness, Rosé Sweet Red can be easily paired with any kind of drink. The party mixes doesn't have to be planned based on the drinks to be served as Rosé Sweet Red can be perfectly paired not with any kind of food. "This means you can drink it anytime, making it the perfect wine for the sweetest things in life," concludes De Torres.

Shopping for the best lights

BEYOND designers use lighting to create various moods and bring out the colors of walls and fabrics in a home. Layering several types of lights makes a room more comfortable and inviting by avoiding the glare and dark shadows. Using rooms—dining, kitchen, bedroom and other parts of the house will benefit from both ambient and task lighting treatments. Designers use artificial lighting in various locations—in our home, offices, stores, factories, resorts, and even for the outdoors. We depend on lighting not only for sight and safety in dark places and also for decorative and functional purposes.

Here are some of the places one can find interesting spots on the lighting stores in Ortigas Center's branches:

Akari/Carlson Trading

From the country's exclusive distributor for the popular Akari lighting brand, this store offers a wide variety of energy-saving lamps. Choose from Akari's circular lamps. Check out the flagship store at CW Home Depot Ortigas branch and the store-in-store and in all branches of the CW Home Depot DIY Superstores.

Alton Lights

If you are looking for modern commercial lighting fixtures, this is the right store for you. They offer the following types—high bay and low bay lighting, floodlights, spot lights, pictorials features, garden lights, in-ground lights, emergency lights among other types of lighting fixtures for commercial applications. They also offer decorative lighting fixtures for residential applications. Their store is located at the ground floor of CW Home Depot Ortigas branch.

Aristocrat House of Lamps

Located in Ortigas, Alabang, Makati as well as in Manila Bay Home branches, the Aristocrat House of Lamps caters to an extensive engineered lighting fixtures. For more than three decades, they have been serving the lighting requirements of individual consumers as well as commercial establishments. It has steadily built a reputation for selling high quality chandeliers and other types of lighting fixtures like ceiling lamps, pendants, wall lamps, sconces, floor lamps, table lamps, down-lights, spot lights, track lights, desk lamps and outdoor lamps. A store at home of Light offers the most complete and finest selection of lamps at very competitive prices.

A & S Lamps

Specializing in quality traditional and modern lighting fixtures, it's classic to empire fixtures down and find luxury homes and offices to consumer id needs known for like basic and more. Their reputation for quality and value for money pocket it makes them one of the most prolific lighting providers for decades. They are located at the Ortigas branch of CW Home Depot.

Eglo

Eglo is a well-known European brand in contemporary lighting. Its distributor, Pan Bisnis, Inks are the first importer of high quality modern lighting fixtures and their products have gained countless high-end homes and commercial spaces and is no exception.

Firefly Flagship Store

This showroom offers a complete line of lighting products in the Makati branch of CW Home Depot and their Firefly brand is sold in all branches of the CW Home Depot DIY Superstores.

Luxen

For high end and recent garde lighting fixtures, there is only one store to go to. Luxenstore offers high end lighting products for luxury residences. Check out their unique showroom at CW Home Depot Ortigas branch.

Illuminasia / I-Asia

With a plethora of lighting fixtures in this store, I-Asia offers elegant yet affordable products where one does not have to search for the day to be able to light up one's home or office.

Ikhea Lighting

This store offers modern, colorful and multi-textured lamps with a rainbow of colors to choose from. Pedlights and drop lights are sides a popular product line. Ikhea is located in all branches of CW Home Depot.

Robles Heritage

This family-owned chain of lighting store offers European lighting, wine lighting, and other power saving/low voltage lighting products. They are also the favorite places for interiors and landscapers to shop for outdoor lighting products like post lamps and spotlights. They are located in Alabang Ortigas and Manila (for branches of CW Home Depot.

SMC Home Builders

For outdoor and indoor lighting sets, SMC offers a wide variety of modern and contemporary fixtures for all shapes and budget. Visit their showrooms in the Glyworks Area of CW Home Depot Ortigas branch.

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Shopping for the Right Furniture and Décor for your Home

CW Home Depot offers top quality home furnishings at reasonable prices

The Home Interior Superstore is a one-in-store and one-stop shop furniture haven owned and operated by CW Home Depot Group. Manila's fastest growing home center chain (Sale from its last four stores department, some branches also have independent furniture stores located in: Ortigas, Westgate-Alabang, Makati (Boni Ave.) and Bonifacio Global City). Among the brands in the Blims Fine Furniture, Homeluxe, Victoria, Index Furniture, Modufit, Oak-gen Furniture, Urban Concepts, Moduliving, Moda Furniture, Diamond, Moma, Victoria Homes and Victoria Mandaluyong.

Aside from a wide variety of ready made furniture designs and themes to suit every lifestyle, the superstore accepts made to order furniture for the most discerning customers. A plethora of home décor and accessories are offered to interior buyers matching pieces to complement their furniture showcase. The sprawling furniture center is bragging to the owners who are currently building their homes or doing renovation projects.

Tips on Planning the Right Furniture:

Most of us have a hard time finding that perfect furniture. Then when we see that awesome living piece, we suddenly fall in love with it, impulsively buy it and end up disliking it as soon as it reached our home. It's about choosing the right furniture. Furniture buying can be turned into a big purchase and it's something we have to live with for a long time. Whenever we wander around furniture shops, it's hard not to imagine how pretty our home would be. Buying furniture is much simpler than what it seems, and these are lists of factors that need to be well thought out first.

Consider the size of the room where the furniture will be placed. Do measurements and layout sketches to determine the size of the furniture that you're going to get and the scale and proportions of your room. It's always best to come up with a rendered picture of your desired furniture. This through home décor magazines and books, check out websites and do some window shopping.

Living Rooms - You can choose a couch, sofa or a sectional sofa that has two or three pieces. An L-shaped sofa will be an instant space-saver since it will easily fit in one corner. It's important to take a look at other elements such as the side tables and the room's color. You know what you like the most and what will be accented. Coffee tables must have the same height as your sofa, as it would be more functional than ornamental. While loungers and recliners are for big private couches, it is recommended to have one of these huge comfortable seats for longer DVD marathons. The assemblable bay seat is also popular in Singapore though.

Dining Rooms - Dining tables usually come in classic rectangular and round shapes and some designs include leaves to expand seating capacity. Round dining tables work best to enable dining rooms and it's also more suitable for long conversations. Large tables tend to make a dining room seem crowded though. Try to get dining chairs that are comfortable when it's pushed as it beats the table.

Bedroom - The best has to be the most heavenly piece in your home, since you often need to have that dreamy sleep. Most bedroom come in single, twin, queen and king sizes. Choose whatever is feasible for your space. Armoire, bonus, book beds and loft beds are good alternatives as well. It is a little uncommon to see water beds, but if you opt for it, just ensure to qualify so as to prevent leakages. For instant livability, beddings will always do the work. Bed linen, quilted duvets, pillow shams and throw.

To get more ideas for your furniture shopping, check out the various furniture shops of CW Home Depot in its 7 branches located in Bel-Air(unit 8D&E, Jac Plaza, Makati (Chino Roces), Manila Bay, Ortigas, Pampanga (San Fernando) and Westgate Alabang. For more info, visit www.cwhomedepot.com or like them at Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/#!/cwhomedepot and Twitter: @cwhomedepot

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Look good, feel good with Jockey Shapewear

By Joel Nigos

LOOK underpinnings are just one ingredient in the recipe for renewed confidence—notably for women. Aside from looking good and feeling good, one can feel more confident when she eats healthy food, exercises regularly and get a good amount of sleep.

Introducing the Jockey Shapewear. Jockey's new beautifully slimming shapewear which ensures the natural curves, comes in breathable fabric that acts as second skin, and with laser cut edges that help eliminate lines under clothing.

The Slip Shaper is a body-hugging slip dress designed to smooth down curves from the bust until the knee. Aside from its slimming effect, it provides extra coverage when seams wear dresses and skirts that become sheer under strong lighting. Comfort is an important factor too, the material is so soft that it can be worn as a night gown.

Another favorite is the High Waist to Mid-Thigh Brief, a powerful shaper that creates a smooth mid section while flattering natural curves. It has the ability to downplay the dreaded panza.

A regular user of Jockey Shapewear is model Sandra Rocha, also the sole proprietor of Pinkerton Ice Cream, a growing homemade ice cream business.

She knows exactly what to look for in a good body shaper. "Make sure it fits you like a second skin!" she advises. "It should be snug, but not constricting. On the contrary, if it's too loose, then it defeats the purpose of wearing it in the first place."

As for the color, Sandra suggests buying one that blends well with your clothes. "Choose between nude and black," she adds. "You can wear nude under pretty much any color."

A graduate of Business College, her days she says are a blur of orders, customer inquiries and meetings. She's continually working on store projects. For Halloween and Holiday she's developed new flavors to delight her customers.

She also writes a food column for a daily, contributes to other food publications, and is a fixture at food events. She means her busy schedule as a blessing rather than a nuisance, and is grateful for every minute she spends doing what she loves.

To recharge, Sandra treats herself to some sleeping indulgence, like a massage or a muscle-relaxing dessert. But since her work requires her to constantly meet with people, she still can turn to dressing well, which in turn boosts her confidence in herself.

"If I'm feeling bloated and nothing fits right, I throw on my black Jockey Shapewear under my outfit and put on a pair of heels," she says. "It helps me feel more put-together."

Choose three degrees of hotness for underwear

By Florini Salazar

A LITTLE push—or lift—can help boost the confidence of women who would cheap street a bit well endowed. Many women resort to push-up bras instead of going under the knife because they are much cheaper.

Said to be the original push-up bra ever sold in the market, Wonderbra was finally introduced to the Philippine market with a sexy fashion show held recently at Power in Bonifacio Global City.

"It was the right time for Philippines to experience the wonders that Wonderbra offers and it let them enjoy the benefits of wearing the original push-up bra," said Celia Mendiola, marketing manager of Hanesbrands Philippines.

Wonderbra is one of the many products under Hanesbrands. It was invented in Canada, sold as early as 1935 and was introduced in the United States in 1994 under a different distributor.

"Wonderbra focuses on fashion and building a women's confidence," Mendiola said. "So it is important that when purchasing a bra always consider the fit because anything that doesn't fit will only cause discomfort to the bra line, quality of materials, and aesthetics."

Wonderbra offers women with bras that have colorful, fun and sexy designs. But, according to Mendiola, practical women should always stock up on basic colors such as nude or taupe, black and white, because they go with any garment while red brassiers exude sexiness.

Wonderbra has what Ge Hanesbrands calls "Three Degrees of Hotness" which allow women to choose how much cleavage they want to "have." The first degree or Hot gives a light push or something that is more believable; second degree or Hotter gives maximum push; and third degree or Sizzlin' adds one size to the bra giving an illusion of a much bigger bustal.

Each degree has its own collection that women can choose from or collect. First degree or Hot features a lightly lined push-up bra with dainty embroidered lace overlay on the cup. The light padding forms a subtle enhancement.

Second degree or Hotter is known for its contours. This collection includes push-up bras in bold colors and prints that are easy and fun to mix and match. The Hottest Shades collection has five styles. The push-up underwire bra is the ideal T shirt bra because it virtually disappears under thin fabrics. The demi cups provide comfortable support while its graduated push-up pads enhance cleavage. The lace racer back push-up bra has maximum cups and graduated padding for subtle cleavage boost. Its front closure makes it very easy to wear and its contrast crossa gives off a flirty silhouette. The lace racer back push-up bra has fully stretched straps that are adjustable in the back and comes with lace band panels for a classic look. The remaining second degree styles feature bold prints and colors and power mesh tech material for a lighter feel and body contouring effect.

Third degree or Sizzlin' offers the following collections: Push-Up, Full of Wonder, Camouflaunt, Plushe and 3 Degrees of Hot. Push-Up has demi-gel push pads which are perfect for plunging necklines and great for body-hugging knit tops. Full of Wonder's unique light-weight gel push pads the limits of comfort and cleavage. The gorgeous silky satin with delicate lace under bust and straps, continuous straps will make women look sleek, striking and sexy. Countermeasure Plushe is a super feminine strapless bra with seamless cup outlined in delicate embroidery that accentuates the natural curves.

Each Wonderbra creations should exude sex and sexiness but feminine forward design. While the brand promotes sexiness, many of its collections focus on functionality. There are pieces where straps can either be played with in different styles or can be removed and become strapless.

Mendiola also shared that women should not stop to just purchasing really cool and edgy brassieres, She said that a well-kept piece can last in a year if cared for properly. She advised women to never machine wash their bras, and never squeeze the water from them or bleach the surface. "Bras should be hand-washed carefully," she said.

Third degree Wonderbras range from P949.75 to P1,199.75, second degree is at P926.75, and first degree at P798.75.

Top marathoner continues winning streak with Sketchers GOrun

SKECHERS GOrun brand ambassador and America's legendary distance runner and Olympian medalist Meb Keflezighi has created another wave in the running community with a landslide winning streak. Leaving no mountain (hmm, chard) strike to a 660-foot alpine course with GOrun, Meb Keflezighi's career continues to soar.

Keflezighi, at the ripe age of 37, continues to challenge himself and conquer greater achievements. He recently set new personal bests and outperformed his younger counterparts. Keflezighi simply gets better with age, and still—the right pair of shoes.

In his latest move, Keflezighi had Skechers GOrun as an essential running partner. GOrun features an innovative SkinnTBoot with Arch strike technology that's designed for serious athletes and fitness enthusiasts. This has helped him maximize (run fast) walking to mid-foot striking, which has improved his running efficiency and speed.

"Skechers' new performance shoes, GOrun, changed the way I run for the better", said Keflezighi. "I've been a heel strike runner my entire life, but I am now wearing Skechers to maximize the efficiency of my foot strike. My shoes are my most essential piece of equipment and right now Skechers has the footwear I need to succeed. I'm excited to be partnering with this groundbreaking company."

Wearing GOrun proved to be pivotal as Keflezighi set a new personal record at America's historic marathon course when he crossed the finish line to the 2011 NYC Marathon, clocking in at 2:09:15. This was followed by another personal best at the London Olympic trials held in Houston, Texas with an amazing 2:09:08 running time, making him the fastest qualifier for the US Olympic Marathon Team. Keflezighi again made history with a fourth place finish, recording a time of 2:11:06 in the race's marathon as the recently concluded London 2012 Olympic Games.

The running community has followed Meb's story and embraced Skechers GOrun with Competitor and Women's Running magazine naming it the "Most Innovative" new line of running shoes for 2012.

GOrun is a minimalist lightweight shoe, which has been making waves worldwide among today's ever-growing running and athletic community, as well as fitness enthusiasts. GOrun elevates the natural running experience, allowing runners to interact with and respond to practically any surface, while offering the additional benefit of real-world protection.

Meb Keflezighi gained international recognition when he took the silver in a silver medal in the marathon after a dramatic race at the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens. Seventy days later, he placed second in the prestigious 2004 ING New York City Marathon.

Despite a potentially career-ending injury during the 2008 Olympic Trials, Meb surprised the track and field world again by winning the 2009 ING New York City Marathon, the first American to do so in 27 years. Currently the most decorated US distance runner, Meb is the former American record holder in the 10,000 meters, a 20-time national champion, and the greatest American runner in OCAA history.

Skechers is available in leading sporting goods, department and specialty athletic stores, as well as Skechers freestanding stores nationwide. For more information, log onto www.skechers.com, www.skechers.com.ph or Skechers Fitness Philippines.

AMERICA'S fastest marathon runner Meb Keflezighi (USA) crosses the finish line for a fourth place finish with a time of 2:11:06 in the men's marathon at the London 2012 Olympic Games

Res | Toe | Run marks 5th year with aggressive nationwide expansion

LEADING multi-brand family footwear boutique Res | Toe | Run is embarking on an aggressive nationwide expansion program to mark its fifth year in business. This is according to Joy Asuncion, brand manager of Res | Toe | Run, who said that the expansion is aimed not only to blows Manila but also in the provinces.

Asuncion said that the company is set to reach a 50-store mark by the end of the year. To date, Res | Toe | Run has 26 stores, including the newly opened three provincial ones located in Baguio/Trinoma Hub-Camp John Hay; Robinsons Calamba, Pampanga; Harbor Point, Subic; and two Metro Manila outlets located in Robinsons Place Magnolia, Quezon City and Lucky China Town Mall, Binondo. The expansion pace is set to continue at a rapid rate with the slated opening of three more outlets in Cavite, Cagayan de Oro and Bacolod.

In addition to its local expansion efforts, Res | Toe | Run, via it's mother company Primer Group, also opened its first international flagship store in Paseligo Mall, Malaysia recently.

To support its growth targets, the company has imposed new marketing strategies, including additional manpower, expanded product lines and setting up of distribution channels to hasten delivery of services and maintain the store's shopping experience.

The expansion, according to Asuncion, allows the company to create more jobs and to fully introduce locally its wide array of globally known, fresh and in-their-prime imported footwear brands which include Skechers, Espadrij, Gourmet, Rocafella, Bobers, Quiksilver, The North Face, Columbia, Salomon, Rockbrok, Native, Teviara, Elleven, Zeit, Steig HC, Pigeaves, Fitflop, Rocsided, Kenneth and Kenneth.